

Small Group Guide - 10/24/21

Acts 1:15-26

"The Story Must Go On"

Recap:

UP, DOWN, OUT

Jesus is still on His throne....

- ended last week seeing the believers in prayer waiting
- 10 days

Outline:

Intro: Theme

Context:

- Jesus had ascended
- Judas had defected (elephant in the room)
- Waiting for the Spirit to come

Out of prayer, Peter stands up among the brothers (120 persons)
-brothers - family (men and women)

Here we see them speak for the first time... Check out what Peter says..

First 7 words, "**Brothers, the Scripture HAD to be fulfilled**"

- "had" is the important word here
- it's imperative....

Illustration: Evie's finger in the door

- tried to not let her see panic in my face

We want a Father who is loving and compassionate... forgiving and merciful..

But in the face of obstacles, when we look into our Father's face, we want to see a fierce resolve... we don't want to see panic...

- **What we see in the passage is God's determination to His own plan**
- **His invincible, unconquerable plan**
 - His purpose isn't crumbling
 - not even the betrayal of Judas

When the Holy Spirit speaks something, it will be fulfilled, even if it takes 1000 years...

The Story must go on... Isn't that encouraging this morning?

Nothing we face frazzles our heavenly Father..

- we may be panicked and confused
- but not Him...

Know that this morning.... You can sleep because the Psalms says He doesn't...

- He isn't panicked and His plan isn't crumbling..

Let's look at this story through this lens now...

1. Peter's denial didn't disqualify him.

Luke 22:33-34, Luke 22:31-32, John 21:15-19

Pay attention to that "when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers", because that's what we see him doing in Acts 1.

Peter's denial didn't disqualify him in Acts.

- God used his mistakes to mold him
- we see a pastor's heart who wanted to encourage and give direction

Truth: Don't let past mistakes keep you from letting the Lord use you now!

How could Peter have the audacity to stand up and lead? What a hypocrite!!!!

- Peter had experienced grace
- sitting on that sea shore around the first after breakfast in John 21, Peter experienced the grace of his Lord Jesus

*****The Gospel:**

***Drives out guilt (not meeting the mark) (stand before God guilty)**

- Colossians 2:14- by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.**
- your record of debt— past, present, future has been nailed to the cross
- and has made you guiltless

***Drives out shame**

- by the adopting love of our heavenly Father
- this reality, drives out shame
- you come to your Father who delights in you
- we come into His presence as children that He loves deeply
- we don't do good with embracing this reality
- we don't receive it well
 - my girls when we say something good about them..
 - praise them publicly
 - they cover their face or look down
- Hey child of God, you have a heavenly Father who delights in you.
- The gospel has driven our your guilt before Him and it will drive your shame as well

2. Peter strengthened them by the Word of God.

-Framework of this passage

- 2 Prophecies (Psalm 69:25 and Psalm 109:8)
- 2 Fulfillments

-Doctrine of inspiration

- 2 **Timothy 3:16-17- All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work**
- 2 **Peter 1:21- For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.**

****God's Word produces strength (v.20- Psalm 69:25)**

-fulfillment v.19

He looked to the Word in regards to Judas to appeal to them to be strengthened... The HS knew this would happen, He even told David that it would... and that was 1000 years ago..
-could you imagine the source of confidence in God it would have instilled in them?

****God's Word gives direction (Psalm 109:8)**

-v. 21-26- Fulfillment

-it told them that "another should take his office"

-they were being obedient to the inspired Word

-let's look at these verses and see what they did to replace Judas

*Qualifications of selecting (21-22)

-Someone who had been with them since Jesus baptism

-witnessed the resurrection

-that's why there is no apostles today... capital A

-no-one alive today meets those qualifications

*Method of selecting (23-26)

-Prayer (24-25)

-Cast Lots (26)

-Stones with names in a jar that would be shaken until one fell out

-OT custom

-Jonah, Leviticus, Joshua

-Proverbs 16:33- The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

-nothing unusual

-should we today? You don't have to, you have the indwelling Holy Spirit

-but I won't tell you not to if you do

-I flip a quarter to choose deer stands

-someone else I know used to flip a quarter to know if they'll use their bow or gun

Why not wait on Paul? Why replace Judas immediately or at all?

- 1. Obedience**
- 2. Luke 22:28-30**

12 tribes - Old Israel, 12 Apostles - new Israel

If the Lord didn't want them to or wanted them to wait on Paul then I believe he would have shut the lid of the jar..

But here me when I say this... this is important because it's in the Bible and it's the church history... but this isn't the main thing in this text..

How do I know that? Because this is the last time you hear from any of the guys except Peter, James, and John...

*****The importance isn't on the people, but on God's plan still going according to plan...**

3. Proximity to Jesus doesn't equal possession of Jesus.

Judas was very close to Jesus

v. 16-17

- allotted a share in the ministry
- saw the miracles
- heard the teachings
- betrayed Jesus with a kiss on the cheek

v.25- Judas turned aside to go to his own place (hell)

v.18- how he died

-Matthew 27- hung himself

- tradition tells us that either the limb broke or the knot didn't hold up and he fell down a cliff and bled out
- the officials took the blood money and bought that piece of land... it became known about what happened there and it became a desolate place

***Judas kissed the door of heaven and still died and went to hell...**

He didn't go to hell because he hung himself, but because he didn't trust in Jesus

- Suicide doesn't send you to hell, not knowing Jesus does
- God's saving hand is not stayed nor is it shortened by suicide
- No single sin can evict a person out of heaven and into hell

I would fail today if I didn't ask you about your relationship with Jesus....

Do you trust in Jesus? Or are you just close in proximity?

The Holy Spirit is probably revealing that to you right now..

- which one is it???
- Will you trust in Him this morning?
- Last week we celebrated Jenifer's new life in Christ.
 - she spoke about how she had a false assurance but God gave her grace
 - will you trust in Him this morning?
 - what are you waiting on?

Small Group Questions:

1. What spoke to you from the sermon?
2. Why did Peter say that, “the Scripture HAD to be fulfilled? What does this teach you about God and His commitment to His own plan? What does it mean for you that God’s plan is invincible?
3. How does it help you to know that God never panics or gets frazzled by anything that we experience or go through?
4. How could Peter, who had just denied Jesus, now get up and be the leader of this group? Have you ever felt unqualified or disqualified for a past mistake?
5. What does it mean for the gospel to drive out guilt? What does it mean for the gospel to drive out shame? How does the gospel drive out shame?
6. How does the Word of God strengthen us? How does the Word of God direct us? Can you give testimony?
7. What is an Apostle? Who can be an Apostle? Do we still have Apostles today?
8. Is suicide the unpardonable sin? What is?
"Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation" (Mark 3:28–29)
9. Have you trusted in Jesus? Get someone to share their testimony.

Next week: Acts 2:1-13