

Date: September 6, 2026

Title: Jesus Mission Continues

Passage: Acts 1:1-8

Summary:

1. Jesus' mission continues because He is alive - v. 1-3
2. Jesus' mission continues through the power of the Spirit (vv. 4-5)

Key Truths:

- If you ask, "What does God want me to do with my life?" Part of the answer is remarkably clear: God has called you to glorify Him by joining Jesus in His mission of making the Gospel known to the lost.
- The book of Acts is about God the Father who has a plan of salvation; the Son accomplishes that salvation through His death and resurrection and now reigns as the exalted Lord. The Holy Spirit empowers Jesus' disciples. And the church carries the gospel of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and ultimately to the ends of the earth.
- Two thousand years later the mission has not changed, and neither has our dependence. We can have buildings, programs, preaching, ministries, strategies, budgets, and plans- and all of those things may have their place. But none of them can raise a spiritually dead sinner to life. None of them can open blind eyes to see the glory of Christ. None of them can transform the human heart. That is the work of God through His Spirit.

Application:

If you are a believer:

- Live with confidence because Jesus is alive!
- We must depend on the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for only what God can do.
- Give our lives to something bigger than ourselves.

If you are not believer:

- Reckon what happened with Jesus' resurrection. Who do you think Jesus is?
- Consider the purpose of your life is deeper than what you see.
- Christianity is not about improving yourself. You need new life. Only God can do that.
 - Cry out to God and pray that He will give you new life.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?

- What specific means (abilities, opportunities, relationships) has God given you to carry out the task of being His witness?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Passage:

Acts 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

EXPOSITION

Introduction

Question of reflection:

What is the purpose of your life?

- Why am I here for?
- What am I supposed to do?

God has put in our hearts to long for something greater and bigger than us.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

- Apart from Christ, we are trying to fill this desire with things of this world.

Westminster Shorter Catechism:

- Our aim? "To enjoy God and worship Him forever."

Psalms 34:8

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

- Quote: If I find that I am not satisfied with anything in this world, that means that I am created for something beyond this world.

John 17:4

I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

- Jesus fulfilled His purpose by making disciples.

John 20:21

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

- Now, we are to be witnesses to the world.

If you ask, "What does God want me to do with my life?"

- Part of the answer is remarkably clear:
 - God has called you to glorify Him by joining Jesus in His mission of making the Gospel known to the lost.

Why Acts?

- We see ordinary people swept into something greater than themselves, which is the mission of Jesus Christ.

The book of Acts is about God the Father who has a plan of salvation; the Son accomplishes that salvation through His death and resurrection and now reigns as the exalted Lord. The Holy Spirit empowers Jesus' disciples. And the church carries the gospel of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem, to Judea and Samaria, and ultimately to the ends of the earth.

- Acts is the continuing story of Jesus who empowers His disciples to be witnesses to the world.

1. Jesus' mission continues because He is alive - v. 1-3

Acts 1:1-3

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the

apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Who wrote Acts?

- Doctor Luke, a close companion to Paul.
- He also wrote the Gospel of Luke.

Colossians 4:14

Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.

Who is Theophilus?

- Likely a non-Jew.
- Name means "Lover of God" "Friend of God"

Luke 1:3-4

it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

- "most excellent Theophilus" = some kind of an official
- "that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught." = believer in Christ.

When was it written?

- Probably around 60-62 A.D.
- A recap of historical accounts.
 - People have sought to undermine Christianity but have instead become Christians after finding Acts is among the most historically reliable books. Places referenced in the book actually existed.
- Implications: Christianity is true. It is based upon real facts and truths. Christianity is the most reliable faith you can put in.
 - Contrast: Other religions references things or places that have never existed or never been seen (ex: something that's been half-human/half-animal; places that never existed or found)

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

- Jesus died but He is alive!
 - His resurrection was proven and seen.
- None of the Christian's who saw Jesus resurrected ever recanted. They all died for their faith because Jesus is indeed alive.

Question: If Jesus is alive, how will He continue His mission on earth?

- Jesus' missions continues through the power of the Spirit.

2. Jesus' mission continues through the power of the Spirit (vv. 4-5)

Acts 1:4-5

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Timeline of 40 days
 - Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days.
 - Connect: Jesus' Transfiguration included Moses and showed Jesus is greater.
- Why did the disciples wait?
 - The promise of the Holy Spirit to be poured out.

Joel 2:28 (Old Testament prophecy)

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

- Why the Holy Spirit? To do extraordinary things, you need extraordinary power.
- Today, the mission has not changed.

Two thousand years later the mission has not changed, and neither has our dependence.

- We can have buildings, programs, preaching, ministries, strategies, budgets, and plans- and all of those things may have their place. But none of them can raise a spiritually dead sinner to life.

But None of them can open blind eyes to see the glory of Christ. None of them can transform the human heart.

- That is the work of God through His Spirit.

How know filled with the Holy Spirit?

- Growing in Christ through humility and gentleness

Application Points

If you are a believer:

- **Live with confidence because Jesus is alive!**
 - Our hope is not rest on the strength of the church. But our hope rests on the fact that Christ is risen!
- **We must depend on the Holy Spirit.**
 - We must cling and pray for God to work through us.
 - We must persevere and stay on our knees. (Not take things for granted)
- **Pray for only what God can do.**
 - God alone can open blind eyes.
- **Give our lives to something bigger than ourselves.**

If you are not believer:

- Reckon what happened with Jesus' resurrection.
 - Who do you think Jesus is?
- Consider the purpose of your life is deeper than what you see.
- Christianity is not about improving yourself. You need new life. Only God can do that.
 - Cry out to God and pray that He will give you new life.

3. (Next Sunday)

Acts 1:6-8

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Sermon