

Bible Summary - Acts 1:1-5

The Basics

Luke, the author of Acts, begins by reminding his reader that this book is part two. The story begins with all that Jesus had begun to do in his first volume. Acts, with all of its glory and excitement is the product of what had already taken place through the work of Jesus from His incarnation to the Ascension. Believers often want to skip ahead to Acts-like messages but when we do this we amputate the very life that produces Acts. Christianity has always and will always begin with what Jesus has done for us in the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension or simply put, through the gospel. Next, Luke reminds the reader that the disciples were told to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The gospel implants King Jesus' life in us and the Holy Spirit empowers the life of King Jesus in us. Both are necessary for Acts to occur.

Scriptures: Acts 1:1-5; Luke 1-24; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 4:18; Matthew 28:17; Acts 5:40-41

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through every question listed.)

1. Did the sermon challenge your understanding of the Holy Spirit in any way?
2. The only way for us to be changed is through the acceptance of Christ which is the gospel. If someone asked you, "how do you know that Christ dwells in you?", how would you answer that question?
3. Sometimes we seek to improve ourselves through things other than the gospel. (legalism, doing penance, self-improvement) How can we redirect ourselves to find transformation only through Christ.
4. Matt shared how he used to view Jesus like Clark Kent and not fully human. Should knowing Jesus experienced hunger, fatigue, and despair affect the way we approach Him in our prayer life?
5. What are some barriers that keep us from living a spirit filled life?
6. If the Lord gave you "thunder" (boldness, power), what would that look like?
7. How can we dream big for Grants Pass?
8. Matt summarized the gospel message in 60 seconds. Could you? Consider spending time as a group practicing how you would deliver the gospel message to someone.