

“The Rest of the Story . . .”

Acts 1:1-11

In the book of Acts, Luke documents the important transition from the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus to the apostolic leadership of the early Church. Luke describes the establishment of the Church and the subsequent evangelism and expansion of the Church. Luke’s purpose was to tell the rest of the story.

Luke wrote so that we might have certainty regarding . . .

I. Our Conviction: _____ (1:1-3)

II. Our Provision: _____ (1:4-8a)

III. Our Participation: _____ (1:8)

IV. Our Anticipation: _____ (1:9-11)

Ten Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Christ

1. The women at the tomb (Mt 28:9-10)
2. Mary Magdalene (Mk 16:9-11; Jn 20:11-18)
3. Two on the road to Emmaus (Mk 16:12; Lk 24:13-32)
4. Peter in Jerusalem (Lk 24:34; I Cor 15:5)
5. Ten disciples (Lk 24:36-43; Jn 20:19-23)
6. Eleven disciples (Jn 20:24-29; 1 Cor 15:5)
7. Seven disciples fishing in Galilee (Jn 21:1-23)
8. Eleven disciples in Galilee (Mt 28:16-20; Mk 16:14-18)
9. Five hundred people at once (1 Cor 15:6)
10. James, the brother of Jesus (1 Cor 15:7)

Historians have asked how this first generation of Christians, who for the most part were unlearned men and women, could have propagated the gospel so rapidly. Adolf Harnack, a German church historian of the nineteenth century, knew how. He said, “We cannot hesitate to believe that the great mission of Christianity was in reality accomplished by means of informal missionaries.” That was the secret. Every Christian - not just a formal order of missionaries supplied by the Christians at home - considered it his or her obligation to bear witness.

- James Montgomery Boice