

**Introduction:** The first person I ever led to Christ. We have been in a short Series on Stewardship. We turn to the book of Acts as we address the Stewardship of the Gospel

## **I. A Look at The Author's Preface**

- A. Still same purpose as the Gospel of Luke. Luke 1:1-4
- B. Acts is Unique in NT – compare to the Gospels and Letters
  - Gospels show power of Christ's sinless life, death, resurrection.
  - Acts show the power of the Ascended One!
  - Epistles show what the church is to be
  - Acts shows how the church came to be

(Revelation shows what the church is to become.)

- C. Luke's Introduction Acts 1:1-4
  - It was 40 days between His resurrection and ascension.
  - Luke closed with the ascension. Acts begins just prior to it.
- D. The promise of the Spirit led to speculation on part of the disciples. The Kingdom will not be returned to Israel, but spread over the whole world!

*Resurrection Transformed the disciples. Fearful, broken, discouraged – to joyful, expectant  
Pouring out of Spirit would transform them yet again – in Power to fulfill the promises of  
God!*

## **II. CHRIST'S ENDURING MISSION – Bringing Glory to the Father! What Has Jesus Begun to do and teach? (v.1)**

- A. His finished work?
  1. His death on the cross, bearing the wrath of God, rejected by the Father.  
NOTE: His Low Point – Our Starting Point.
  2. He Glorified God. John 17:1-8  
NOTE: "Make your name known" harkens back to Exodus 3:13-15. It reveals who God is in his character and in his nature. Psalms 22:22; Isaiah 52:6; Ezekiel 39:7
    - God put his *name* in the tabernacle/temple in the midst of His people Deut.12:5
    - Jesus has become the "place" where God has placed His name!  
(cf. John 2:19; Phil.2:9-11)
- B. His ongoing work includes:
  1. God bringing salvation/life - John 5:24; 6:47
  2. Luke 4:18,19 Christ's Calling Isaiah
  3. Calling people to Himself
  4. His reign in the resurrection!
  5. Seeking worshippers who worship in spirit and truth - John 4:21-24  
*They Will Make His Name Known!!*

**III. CHRIST'S EXTENDED MISSION** - Revealing His Glory to the Ends of the Earth!  
In Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, the end(s) of the earth

A He is still doing everything He began!

B. Gathering the people of God!

- Israel was a community who worshipped the living God.
- Christ renews/restores the worshipping community.
- How?

C. "You will be my witnesses." He is extending the mission/work through us!!  
v.8 – key to Acts, key to God's promise and plan

- "To the ends of the earth." Did the Apostles get to the ends of the earth?  
No, But they passed on the message to other witnesses – who have!

**IV. CHRIST'S ENTRUSTED MISSION** – Bringing Glory to the Father and the Son.  
"You will be my witnesses". What would move us to such Witness??

A. Obedience! The savior, the Lord and King of Creation – our redeemer and the lover of our souls has commanded it. Surely we will obey. Matthew 28:20 Go!!  
Acts 1:8 -You will be my witnesses!

B. Love for the Lost; Compassion.

- We are spiritual beings; cannot live on bread alone.
- We cannot obey the command to love our neighbors if we leave them to starve without any knowledge or witness to the bread of life/of heaven.

C. For the Sake of His Name! Maybe our strongest drive comes from a desire for the honor and glory of God the be revealed from

1. A Love for His Name! Romans 1:5; 3 John 7

2. To what Name do we testify to "the ends of the earth?" Isaiah 45:21;  
Philippians 2:9

3. Worship *produces* Witness(es). They are bound together in or by the glory, beauty, power of His name!

a. Worship is to delight in and lift up His Name – to exalt the King of Kings!

b. To witness is to call others to delight in that name, to worship and to magnify the Lord with us!

4. Witness *leads to* worship

- John 4:23 "Yet a time is coming *and has now come* when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. "

*Our worship of the Living God must break forth in witness! Has yours??*