

## Jesus: The Founder and Foundation of the Church

(Study of Acts #1)

Acts 1:1-11

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*Matthew 16:18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

Jesus gave provisions for us; His witnesses:

1. He gave us a **pattern** for the work (1:1)
  - a. Our behavior makes us **believable**
    - i. Titus 2:7, 8,10 *...in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, <sup>8</sup> sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you...<sup>10</sup> not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.*
    - ii. Matt 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*
2. He gave us a **promise** of a person (verse 5, 8)
  - a. Our dependence makes us **dependable**
    - i. John 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—<sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth...*
    - ii. John 15:26 *“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.*
3. He gave us the **proof** that transforms us (verse 3, 9)
  - a. Our conviction makes us **convincing**
    - i. Luke 24:39 *Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”*
    - ii. Acts 2:32 *This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.*
    - iii. Luke 24:50 *And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup>Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven.*

Jesus gives encouragement to us; His witnesses

1. Don't **worry**: you have help (1:8)
  - a. John 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*
  - b. His power makes it **possible**

2. Don't **waiver**: We have a task (1:6)
  - a. Acts 1:7 *And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.*
  - b. Our focus makes it **feasible**
3. Don't **wait**: we already have the Spirit
  - a. 1 Corinthians 12:13 *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body— whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*
  - b. Titus 3:4-6 *But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, <sup>5</sup>not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup>whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*
  - c. Our waiting is a **waste**
4. Don't wait: He is coming back (Zachariah 14:4)
  - a. His coming is what **compels us**

Conclusion:

A witness is not a **prescription** of what you are to do; it is a **description** of who you are and whose you are. (Ye shall be **my** witnesses) Do you belong to Jesus? Is your life telling his story?