

Feet Out the Door
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Acts 1:1-11
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Synopsis:

Anyone who believes in God, or who wonders about God, whether Christian or not, I think, would want to know what God is up to in the world.

Just what is God doing?

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Trying to get us out of here | = rescue |
| Finding our true selves | = affirm things as they are |
| Making us feel better | = happiness |
- If #1 get out the lifeboats.
If #2 affirm people.
If #3 not working.

From opening chapters of the Bible, we read that God is on a mission, and that mission is not

- to get us out of here
- to leave things as they are
- to make us happy.

God's mission is to restore all things. According to the Book of Acts, this restoration happens

- through the kingdom
- through the Holy Spirit
- through our feet out the door

I.

What's God Up To?

Acts 1:6 "Lord, is this the time . . .?"

The Jesus events force the early disciples ask,

What's God up to? Not what they think

A. Here's what they think: READ 1-3

- Jesus is raised from the dead v1
- new era is dawning, "kingdom of God" v3
- Holy Spirit v2, 5 means the end times (Joel 3)

They ask a question: READ 6

What's God up to?

Time for kingdom = when?

Israel = who?

What's God up to in our time? Not what we think

B. Here's what people think:

- new era is dawning in USA = *postmodern*
- Christendom (build it, they will come) is over
- Church hasn't grown in 100 years, PCUSA is down 43K
- Started 200 years ago
- Look at Europe right now to see what's coming
(*The Cube and the Cathedral* George Weigel)
- Look at S America, Africa, Asia and see what's growing

Here's what's happening at Geneva:

- new era is dawning
- build it and they'll come is over

What's God up to? Not what we think.

Jesus replies to early church and to us.

II.

God's About the Kingdom

Acts 1:6 ". . . when will you restore the kingdom?"

God is up to,

A. The Kingdom: What is this?

Jesus in Gospels: "Repent, the kingdom of God is at hand"

Here's what they thought Jesus meant

Throw out the Gentiles, Israel on top here on earth

Here's what God thinks it looks like

Jesus answers John's prison query

Deaf, blind, good news to poor

Powers of this world overthrown

Everyone living in restored relationships

Jew and Gentile alike
Happens through death on a cross
Resurrection is the sign of victory
Here on earth

B. Kingdom of God today: We don't use these words

Everyone yearns to set things right
Christians proclaim we find this in Jesus
Jesus who will restore all things
Public not private salvation
Here on earth

What's God up to?

God is on a mission to restore all things by establishing the kingdom here on earth

How?

III.

God's About the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come"

God does this through READ 5

Holy Spirit: What is this?

- living presence of God = life force (Gen 1)
- life force in restoring things to rights
- signals end times for them (Joel quote in Acts 2)
- signals God's power, not ours

Jesus tells the disciples:

"You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit
not many days from now."

Kingdom happens:

Not through our efforts
Not through our plans
Through God's efforts
Through God's plans

How do we find God's efforts and plans?

Pray and wait "Come Holy Spirit," the church prays

*Five years, 1 and ½ years!
HOLY SPIRIT HAS SHOWN UP

Remember our time line!

This ought to encourage us!

IV.

God's About Our Feet Out the Door

Acts 1:8 "And you will be my witnesses"

Once the Holy Spirit shows up, our feet go out the door READ 7-8

-Jerusalem (1-7) Judea/Samaria (8-9) ends of earth (10-28)

-Concentric circles

-Starts with who and where we are

A. Who comes before the what: you

Showing up in love is most important

We think we need training

Too much training and not enough showing up

E.g. Kenya people last week-lay people preaching

God wants *you* to show up in people's lives

Someone wants and needs you!

This ought to encourage you

B. Where we are is critical: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria

Churches in New Testament are locations (at Corinth)

Where are we?

Laguna Woods/Leisure World = seniors

Aliso Viejo = families

E.g., Alzheimers and Iglesia Park

These are pathways into where we are

They aren't all inclusive

Where are you?

God wants *you* to show up *where* you are

This ought to encourage us

*Brochure Hold Up