

## Getting Ready

Acts 1.12-26

December SUNNY Day in LA – Great Hamburgers with Great Friends & Family  
 To Christian Friend “How is your CHURCH?” > DON’T have One Anymore  
 “Looking?” > NO NEED! > We Stay HOME Sunday AM – Coffee, Paper, Relax  
 But we still LOVE JESUS! – That ended that CHAT! Ordered another BURGER!

SEQUEL – Luke Vol. 2 – Son of God in HEAVEN – Ruling, Residing, Returning  
 Great PROMISE to SEMINAL Church – Handful of People > IMPACT World!

GREAT, IMPORTANT Events Require Careful PREPARATION

FINAL ACT of WORK of SALVATION > 10 DAYS Away

HOW does Church PREPARE for Great WORK of God??

1. Plan

2. People

3. Prayer

1. Plan

TITLE of Book > “The Acts of the Exalted Jesus done in the Power of the Holy Spirit through His Apostolic Church”

But > Americans like abbreviations = ACTS

Luke: Jesus’ *Earthly Humiliation* // Acts: Jesus’ *Heavenly Exaltation*

a. Witness > STRUCTURE of Book BUILT on Church’s Task of MISSION

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in *Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

Acts 1.8

Whole CHURCH taking Whole GOSPEL to Whole WORLD > Notice **ANDS**  
 EVERY BELIEVER must be Concerned for EVERY PERSON on PLANET

Chapters 1 – 7 Jerusalem

8 – 12 Judea and Samaria

13 – 28 Ends of the Earth

What kind of mission would this be??

Jerusalem – Jesus was crucified there less than 2 Months Ago!!

Judea – Jesus was rejected there

Samaria – They were half-breeds

Ends of the Earth > Gentiles --- You must be JOKING!

Like starting Hosni Mubarak for President of Egypt Campaign  
HQ in TAHRIR Square in CAIRO > Just been RESOUNDINGLY REJECTED

Early CHURCH gathered in JERUSALEM – 3 Certainties  
**Jesus is ALIVE – Jesus has ASCENDED – They might get ATTACKED!**

b. Wait - Much our life is HURRY UP and WAIT

He gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but *wait for the gift my Father promised...* in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1.4,5

HOW DID THEY WAIT??

They worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed *continually at the temple, praising God.*

Luke 24.52,53

v. 14 They all joined *together constantly in prayer*

**Continuous PRAISE in TEMPLE / Constant PRAYER in their HOME**

HOUSE CHURCH ONLY > Miss CONNECTEDNESS of CELEBRATION

BIG Meeting ONLY > Miss INTIMACY of PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT

HEALTHY Combination > BIG Gathering of Worship – SMALL Mtg at Home

PARADOX – Told to REACH ALL WORLD but REMOVED FROM the World

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel... When I say to a wicked man, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn him... from his evil ways in

order to save his life, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man and he does not turn from his wickedness...he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself"... Then the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet. He spoke to me and said: "Go, shut yourself inside your house. And you, son of man, they will tie with ropes; you will be bound so that you cannot go out among the people. I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so that you will be silent and unable to rebuke them..."

Ezekiel 3.17-26

Sometimes HARDEST COMMAND is WAIT > Charged UP, READY to GO!

The situations in which we learn most about obedience are those in which we cannot see why we are called to do what we are doing. If we can give a reason for what we are doing, then we are not necessarily learning obedience, at least not simple obedience. What we are really doing is trusting our ability to reason things out...But it is quite another thing to learn obedience when the proscribed course does not seem the best option.

James Boice

Church LEADERS Need to OBEY > Before they Tell New Believers TO OBEY

c. Word > 10 Days of WAITING > Peter STUDIED SCRIPTURE

Risen Jesus > EASTER Afternoon > BIBLE SEMINAR on the Emmaus Road  
Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in *all the Scriptures concerning himself*.

Luke 24.27

...*giving instructions through the Holy Spirit* to the apostles he had chosen... Acts 1.2

vs. 16,20 Peter... said, "Brothers, the *Scripture had to be fulfilled* which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas... "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms...."

DAVID lived 1000 years BEFORE Jesus & Judas > SPOKE of MESSIAH

JESUS – SON of David and David's LORD – KEY to the OT

PSALMS > MOST QUOTED book in the NT

Peter PREACHED on PENTECOST > Text: OT Prophet JOEL, PSALMS

If you find yourself in what seems to be a time of waiting or inactivity, redeem the time, as these disciples did. Become a better student – a more knowledgeable student – of the Word of God. James Boice

APPETITE for GOD and HIS WORD > Should be CONSTANT > Lifelong...  
Like newborn babies, *crave pure spiritual milk*, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2.2,3

PETER became LIFE-LONG Student of SCRIPTURE > Final Written Words  
But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
2 Peter 3.18

The Scriptures can take away all our fear of sudden events. John Calvin

the Psalms...they found, not indeed a road map for exactly where they were – scripture seldom supplies exactly that – but the hints and clues to enable them to see how to feel their way forward in this new and unprecedented dilemma. N.T. Wright

## 2. People

AMAZING > God has ENTRUSTED His Purpose, His Reputation to PEOPLE  
ANGELS More EFFICIENT, CONSISTENT – NOT Sinners saved by GRACE

REVIVAL Coming – Soon 3000 More Followers of Jesus – 3000 Problems!

CHURCHES would be GREAT PLACES withOUT the PEOPLE!

GUIDANCE on HOW to LIVE, RELATIONS with WORLD, WORK, Family

a. Assembly ARMY of GOD to CONQUER Whole World > In ONE ROOM

NOT Total Number of ALL BELIEVERS > Some in Galilee, Samaria, Judea  
He was raised on the third day...he appeared to *more than five hundred* of the brothers at the same time  
1 Corinthians 15.4,6

SAME NAMES of APOSTLES in Luke 6 – DIFFERENT ARRANGEMENT  
 vs. 13,14 Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and  
 Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James...  
 along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

1<sup>st</sup> NAMES > LEADERS – Peter, James, John > NO Hint that Peter was POPE

INTERESTING GROUP – Apostles, Mother Mary, Brothers of Jesus

Where was Nicodemus? Joseph of Arimethea? Cleopas? Lazarus? His Sisters?

HOME MEETINGS HARD WORK – Host 120 People for TEN DAYS!!

PEOPLE in HOME > BREAK Things, TAKE Things >> BLESS THINGS!

IMPORTANCE of FELLOWSHIP > Some FEAR, UNCERTAINTY

v. 22 the time when Jesus was taken up from us

JESUS was in BETTER PLACE, But THEY Face Enemies NOW ALONE!

PARALLEL between Book of Acts & Book of JOSHUA > Both BRIDGES

JOSHUA – People of God ENTER Promised Land > rest OT Remain in LAND

ACTS – People of God BECOME CHURCH > Rest of NT Letters to Churches

Book of Joshua – TEN DAYS of Waiting before FIRST BATTLE – Jericho

Acts – TEN DAYS of Waiting & Preparation before – FIRST Soul HARVEST

## b. Agreement

vs. 12,13 *They returned* to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a  
 Sabbath day's walk from the city....to the room where *they were staying*.

SABBATH Day's WALK = About 1 km / SCRIBES > UNLAWFUL Further

PERHAPS Very Room of LAST SUPPER > Possibly Home of Mark's Family

v. 15 a group numbering about a hundred and twenty REAL COZY – 10 Days!  
120 – Number REQUIRED Jewish LAW to Establish NEW COMMUNITY

> Secondary THEME of Luke > Christians are NOT LAWBREAKERS

> DOCUMENT of Acts – USEFUL in DEFENSE of ARRESTED Christians

v. 15 Peter stood up among the believers...and said, "*Brothers...*  
1<sup>st</sup> Time CHRISTIANS are CALLED 'BROTHERS'

v. 14 They all joined *together* > FAVORITE word of LUKE – uses 10 times

...they raised their voices *together in prayer* to God.... Acts 4.24

v. 14 ...*along with the women* and Mary the mother of Jesus

MARY was NOT an OBJECT of WORSHIP but PARTICIPANT in Worship

Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."  
Luke 1.46,47

Because of Mary, Jesus was born; because of Jesus, Mary was born again. Y.T.

NORMAL, HEALTHY Mix of Men and WOMEN

- NOT SEPARATED in Different Rooms, BEHIND Walls, Curtains, Burkhas

- CO-EQUAL Before GOD – Not SLAVES or SEX-SYMBOLS >> SISTERS

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all *one*  
*in Christ Jesus.* Galatians 3.28

v. 14 ...and with his brothers > Like Brothers of JOSEPH in EGYPT

BROTHER they REJECTED and THOUGHT DEAD > NOW on THRONE!

c. Apostles – word 'Apostle' = SENT ONE, i.e. Sent with AUTHORITY

1) Set Apart > Out of His Many DISCIPLES > 12 Chosen as APOSTLES

Jesus...*appointed twelve* - designating them *apostles* - that they might *be with him* and that he might *send them out to preach* and to have *authority to drive out demons*.  
Mark 3.13-15

Jesus 40 DAYS on EARTH before ASCENSION > Focus on APOSTLES  
...He was taken up to heaven, *after* giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.  
Acts 1.2

JESUS' Ministry CONTINUES > ON EARTH – through the APOSTLES

APOSTOLIC Church – FOUNDED BY Them and ON Them

NOT Self-Appointed, Man-Appointed, Church-Appointed > JESUS Himself

NOT NEPOTISM – Jesus' Human Half-Brothers not CANDIDATES for Apostles

2) Scandal > BETRAYAL and SUICIDE of ONE of PILLARS

vs. 16-19 ...Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus - he was *one of our number* and *shared in this ministry*." (With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

( ) – LUKE'S Addition of BACKGROUND INFO for GENTILE Readers

Perhaps the citizens of first century Jerusalem said, "You say Jesus is the Son of God, Israel's Messiah, Savior and Restorer, come to right our wrongs and to expose the priest's corrupt abuse of their sacred office for money. How then did he not know any better than to choose a man like Judas to be one of his chief companions...and if you please, treasurer of his group?" David Gooding

We have ONLY KNOWN Judas as BAD GUY > They FELT Fresh PAIN

TRUSTED FRIEND > NO IDEA he would BETRAY – Jesus AND THEM!

The tragedy of Judas is held within the strange, dark, overarching purpose of God.

N.T. Wright

3) Symbolic > Now WAITING for SPIRIT > CORONATION of the CHRIST  
PENTECOST would FULFILL God's Promises to ISRAEL > begin NEW ERA

COMPLETE PICTURE for NEW EPOCH in Redemption History

Jesus TAKES THRONE in HEAVEN > Symbolic Thrones of CHURCH Filled

I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.  
Luke 22.29-30

The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.  
Revelation 21.14

They were the spearhead of Jesus' plan to renew and restore God's people – and there were supposed to be Twelve of them. ...How could they model, and symbolize, God's plan for Israel (and thus the world) if they were...one patriarch short of a true Israel?  
N.T. Wright

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:  
"Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem..."  
Acts 2.14

#### 4) Selection

vs. 20,21 "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms, "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.' Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us..."

vs. 23-26 So they *proposed* two men...Then they *prayed* ...Then they *cast lots*, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

PROCESS > Guided by Scripture – Reason – Consensus – Prayer – Lots

LOTS!?! – PAGAN!!?! > Only OTHER Time in NT > Soldiers at CROSS



LOTS > DISCERN God's Will without Human INTERFERENCE / Prejudices  
**CHURCH was ASKING Her Lord to MAKE HIS CHOICE**

v. 24 Then they prayed "*Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen...*

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "*Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?*"  
 Luke 5.22

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. Proverbs 16.33

MOST HOLY Day Israel's Calendar – YOM KIPPUR – Day of ATONEMENT

CENTRAL EVENT > Annual SACRIFICES for Nation's Sins >> by LOT

"Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household. Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. *He is to cast lots for the two goats--one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat.* Leviticus 16.8-10

DISTRIBUTION of LAND Parcels for Israelite Families in PROMISED Land  
 The LORD said to Moses, "The land is to be allotted to them as an inheritance based on the number of names...*Be sure that the land is distributed by lot.*

Numbers 26.52-55

OT METHOD > Just BEFORE Pentecost > TRANSITIONAL EVENT

NOW NEW Leading by Word & Spirit > Qualifications for Leaders Tim, Titus

Scripture, common sense, and prayer constitute a wholesome combination through which God may be trusted to guide us today.  
 John Stott

5) Servants > Called by THE Servant to follow Him in SERVICE

v. 22 For one of these must become a *witness with us of his resurrection.*

With great power the *apostles continued to testify to the resurrection* of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.  
 Acts 4.33

v. 23 Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias

SEVERAL NAMES > Sign of DIGNITY, IMPORTANCE // PATRONIMIC? ?  
IF CHOICE Made by MAN, Maybe CHOSE more DIGNIFIED CANDIDATE

Sometimes there is DIFFERENCE between BEST Man and RIGHT Man

Matthias?? > NEVER MENTIONED Again > NEITHER are MOST of 12

NOT BIOGRAPHY > Church Tradition – Preached in ETHIOPIA

- **Mistake?** – NO, Recorded POSITIVELY by LUKE – LED by GOD

- **Paul?** – ALSO, Apostle > MET BY RISEN JESUS on Damascus Road

Paul, an apostle - sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ...

Galatians 1.1

DID NOT Include HIMSELF as one of ORIGINAL TWELVE

he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve...then to all the apostles, and last of all

he appeared to me also

1 Corinthians 15.5,7,8

Counting Paul - Were AT LEAST 13 Apostles, PROBABLY MORE....

the apostles, Barnabas and Paul...

Acts 14.14

Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They

are *outstanding among the apostles*...

Romans 16.7

SUPPORTING ROLES > STAR of ACTS > RISEN, EXALTED Lord Jesus

Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on

Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest whom we confess. Hebrews 3.1

6) Shut Apostle (*Greek*) = Sent One (*English*) = Missionary (*Latin*)

TODAY – One's Ministry can be apostolic > Pioneer, New Places for Jesus

BUT OFFICE of Apostle CLOSED with DEATH of LAST APOSTLE (John?)

You are...God's people and members of God's household, built on the *foundation of the apostles and prophets*, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Ephesians 2.19-20

An objective experience of the risen Lord was an indispensable qualification of an apostle...and why there have been no comparable apostles since and can be none today.

John Stott

THREAT and ATTACK to ONCE-FOR ALL Foundation of SCRIPTURE  
I believe in one holy, catholic, (Latin for “universal”) and *apostolic church*.

Nicene Creed

Dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold...

Jude 17

Chapter 12 > APOSTLE JAMES is KILLED by King HEROD

NO REPLACEMENT Made > OFFICE CLOSED > FAITHFUL unto DEATH

Anyone who CLAIMS THIS TITLE Today > Either a FOOL or a HERETIC

### 3. Prayer

Got PEOPLE, Got PLANS > Don't Forget to PRAY!

MESSAGE > Jesus is NOT HERE – WE BETTER PRAY! THEY DID!

The church, during its first week of existence, was united together in prayer.

R.C. Sproul

a. Follow LUKE Records MORE EXAMPLES of PRAYER than OTHERS

Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles...

Luke 6.12-14

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 5.16

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray....  
Luke 11.1

Church in Acts > OUT into World in Mission > BACK to God in PRAYER

Prayer is not a sign of doubting but is a witness to our certain hope and confidence, since we ask the Lord for things that we know he has promised. John Calvin

DIALOGUE > PRAYER and WORD > We Talk to God, God to Us!

Acts shows us what prayer is like when praying people recognize the presence of Jesus the Lord. It is joyful and confident, for the one who is Lord and Christ among us hears our needs. There is awe-filled fear when we recognize his terrifying holiness. There is preoccupation not with ourselves – our ailments, comforts, conveniences, hurt feelings – but with the great cause of the King who walks in our midst. We ask to receive from his hand whatever will make us serviceable to him, useful for his saving purposes. We pray not because we must, but because we may; not out of lust for his gifts, but out of love for the Giver; not to bend his will to ours, but to bend our will to him.  
Dennis Johnson

PROBLEM with my HAMBURGER BUDDY in Los Angeles – Missed this Truth

DRUNK with Doctrine of EMERGING Church > Focus on SELF, HAPPINESS

About ME? More Happy to be in BED some Sunday's > Church NOT ABOUT ME

JOY of Early Church > Simple Formula > 1. Jesus / 2. Others / 3. Yourself

b. Fervent v. 14 They all joined together *constantly in prayer*

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up...  
Luke 18.1

PREVAILING Prayer – Keep PRAYING until GOD ANSWERS!

People can ONLY DO HUMAN Achievements in THEIR POWER

PRAYER taps GOD'S POWER and invites PRESENCE of GOD'S SPIRIT

No great spiritual awakening has begun anywhere in the world apart from united prayer – Christians persistently praying for revival. J. Edwin Orr

1850's – USA in WEAK, SPIRITUAL CONDITION

1857 – 46 yr old Businessman Joseph Lanphier 1 hr. Noon Weekly Prayer NYC

1<sup>st</sup> Day – Lanphier ALONE for 30 Minutes > by End, 6 Men from 4 Denominat

NEXT WEEK – 20 // WEEK LATER – 40 // SOON – OVER 100 DAILY!!

Businessmen >> MONEY could NOT SAVE Them > Gospel FILL their HEARTS

MANY Prayer Mtgs OPENED– OTHER Churches > ALL ACROSS USA

Within SIX MONTHS 10,000 Daily Prayer Mtgs JUST in NEW YORK CITY

Within TWO YEARS > 2 Million American led to FAITH in JESUS

USA population = 30 Million > 13 % of Nation SAVED > Believers PRAYED!

I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; *they will never be silent day or night.* You who call on the LORD, *give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest* till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth. Isaiah 62.6,7

Right HERE & NOW – thru PRAYER & WORSHIP we TASTE HEAVEN

FAINT GLIMPSE of Presence of JESUS – LORD Now and FOREVER

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**Acts 1:12-26**

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. 13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers ( a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) 16 and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus- 17 he was one of our number and shared in this ministry."

18(With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. 19 Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

20 "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms, "May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and,

"May another take his place of leadership.'

21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

23 So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. 24 Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen 25 to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." 26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

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