

Sermon Notes

“Really Alive! Really Returning” from Acts Chapter 1 verses 1 to 12

A few things I need to remember from hearing today’s Bible Reading and Teaching.

The Bible Reading

Acts Chapter 1 verses 1 to 12

¹ “In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days

and spoke about the kingdom of God.

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But 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.”

⁹ After he had said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven”. ¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. (NIV)

An Introduction

Luke is the writer of the Book of Acts. His former book was the Gospel of Luke. From what we know of Luke he was a doctor (Colossians 4:14), a companion of the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys (2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 1:24), and an historian (Luke 1:1-4). Though the book is called the Acts of the Apostles, the first chapter explains why it is better understood as the Acts of the **Holy Spirit** *through* the Apostles.

These first twelve verses you are about to read and study, revisit what happened over the forty days after Jesus had risen from the dead. They reinforce to a man (Theophilus) - like ourselves who have not seen Jesus or witnessed his resurrection - the reality of the resurrection of Jesus, what he then spoke to them about before his ascension (Luke 24) and what the next stage of Jesus’ ministry through the Apostles by the Holy Spirit will be until his return. Luke’s intent for writing Acts is no different to that of his Gospel, “**That you may be certain of the things you have been taught**” (Luke 1:4)

A prayer.

Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me of yourself from your Word. Help me and others to see the wisdom and value of living life according to your word the Bible; through Jesus Christ your Son

our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Read Acts Chapter 1 verses 1 to 12
(See over)

The Bible Study

1. What convincing proofs did Jesus give to the Apostles that he had risen from the dead?
2. Why were the Apostles to wait in Jerusalem and not leave?
3. What “power” was the Holy Spirit going to give the Apostles to be and do?
4. When you read the rest of Acts we hear how they were witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. But how are we to understand “to the ends of the earth”?
5. What question did the Apostles ask of Jesus in verse 6? What was Jesus reply? What could we learn from Jesus’ reply about what’s important?
6. What can we learn from what the angels said to the Apostles? (See verses 9 to 11)
7. Where did Jesus’ ascension take place? (See verse 12)
8. Mindful of Luke’s intent in writing Acts (Luke 1:4) what are some of the things you can be certain about?

Close with prayer considering what you’ve learnt.