Title: Acts – ALIVE! 2020-05-24

Date: 2020/05/22

Place: GC

INTRODUCTION:

**Don’t be defined by Lockdown!**

* We are not just enduring something that has been forced on us.
* Jesus has more for us than survival of this season or any other in life
* Look for the Opportunities
* Look to His Purpose for you
* This is not a Pause, but a Preparation, of greater Productivity & Fruitfulness.

Today we start a New Series, ACTS ALIVE!

Exploring the Book of Acts in NT to help us follow Jesus today!

Jerusalem in the 1st C

* Not that different from where we find ourselves today.
* Time of great Confusion, Uncertainty, Fear, even Doubt.
* Governmental changes, Political wrangling’s, famine and suffering.
* Everything was changing. Christians were trying to understand what happens now? Is our faith futile?
* Sound familiar?

And its in this Climate that

We see the church of Jesus growing from a Mostly Jewish, Jerusalem based community to a multinational, multi-cultural, movement reproducing communities like these everywhere.

This is the story of Jesus leading His people by His Spirit to go out into the world to invite all nations to live under His Reign!

This book is often termed “the Acts of the Apostles” this is not entirely accurate!

As we look into the book of Acts, we see Luke’s true focuses the attention on “the acts of the Holy Spirit”, through His followers.

**Luke**, hand pick by God: A Doctor, was a man trained to notice the detail and its effect on the whole!

Becomes a friend and ministry partner of Paul

Luke’s intent in Acts is to show the early church and its movement, orchestrated by the Holy Spirit taking the gospel

from its Jerusalem based,

Jewish-oriented beginnings

to its becoming a world-wide multicultural phenomenon.

**Luke writes 2 books. LUKE - ACTS**

Act 1:1 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.

* #1 Luke: The Work Jesus BEGAN and Enlists His Disciples into!
* #2 Acts: The Work Jesus CONTINUES and Entrusts to His Disciples, whom He empowers by the Holy Spirit!

Beginning with the Apostles, soon entrusted to ALL BELIEVERS!

John 16: 7But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

So Acts begins this new chapeter in the Jesus Story. The Life of God multiplying thru His followers!

I want to introduce you to the Book of Acts in a New way!

That when you read these passages you hear **Marching And the roar of Progress!**

**The sounds of rushing wind and roaring fire!**

**That you pick up a sense of the relentless progress of Gods plan for Mankind unrolling across the map of human history!**

**Through setbacks and triumphs**

**That we would hear the sound of certainty and action. Of chains of oppression breaking, cultural taboos falling, kingdoms shaking,**

**The sounds of a geographical spread of the Message of Jesus, by foot on dusty desert roads, by horseback, by boat, and shipwreck, by arrest and roman army.**

**Never be fooled that Acts is a silent, dusty History book of events long forgotten, of people you and I have little in common with, living in an age that has no bearing on ours!**

**The clue is in the Tittle… even its Name is a VERB!**

**Acts should never be read as a Report of the activities of others long ago, but rather as a challenge of what can happen when ordinary people invite the Power of the Holy Spirit to Enlist and Equip them to Join the Mandate of The REAL LIFE Story of Jesus to Every Tribe and Nation!**

**… To be continued**

* NB The Acts account doesn’t end with Acts!
* Luke ends the account, while we wait to hear what happens to Paul after his 2 year house arrest in Rome.
* Later in the NT we read that he is imprisoned again! from his 2nd imprisonment in Rome in the dungeon, he writes letters to strengthen the new churches in all these new territories.
* The Great Image of Acts is of the beginnings of a small group of believers, with certain key figures which grows, and spreads as a mighty army all over the world as each one plays their part.
* We today can consider ourselves as part of that story, not distanced by history and culture but part of this real spread of the gospel to every nation!

**8:00**

1. **Acts Overview / Roadmap**

The key verse in **Acts 1:** **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.”**

With emphasis on **Gods power** and the resultant **spread of the church**, **numerically**, **geographically** and **culturally**.

CF Act 8:1!

“AND”

Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria, Ends of the Earth is the Mandate to the early church and on until Jesus Returns!

Also a great **Road map** to reading the book of Acts

1. **Chapters 1-7 Jerusalem**
   1. Peter
   2. Pentecost
   3. Jewish
   4. Begins of the spread of the Gospel & Christian communities.
   5. Stephen
2. **Chapters 8-12 Judea & Samaria** 
   1. Philip
   2. Salvations healings preaching
   3. Non-Jews
   4. Gods uniting rule over a divided area.
   5. Cornelius
3. **Chapters 13-28 Ends of the Earth**
   1. Paul
   2. 13-20 Send!
   3. Planting visiting churches
   4. Middle East, Asia, Greece, Rome
   5. 21-28 Price and Purpose
   6. Arrests and Imprisonment
   7. Clif hangar ending … To be continued. In the lives of Christians of every generation until Jesus returns!

Act 1: 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.”

**12:00**

1. **Jesus is the Giver of Life!**
2. Jn 10: 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.
3. **Act 1:3** gave many convincing proofs that he was alive
4. Remember Luke’s purpose was to strengthen the faith of a person by the name of Theophilus.
5. He records both Historical fact and Supernatural evidence! And the work of the Holy Spirit Given to us!
6. **Signs of Life 14:00**

Peter: Act 2: 22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man **accredited** by God to you by miracles, wonders and **signs**, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

Everything is new … and uncertain

Messy

1. Salvation
   1. Are you Born Again?
2. Baptism
3. **Worship 15:00**

2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.Seems this is the most difficult in modern lives!

* 1. Sing
  2. Read
  3. Meditate

1. **Wait 17:00**
   1. Power of the Pause!
   2. A Bold statement of Putting Jesus 1st and Relying on Him.
   3. Perhaps right after this meeting you need to go find a quiet spot and Wait on Jesus.
      1. Even 5 min!
2. **Holy Spirit 19:00**
   1. Empowered
   2. You’d think – Jesus that’s risky! They aren’t ready, they need to be trained more, they don’t even understand your purpose is not political!
   3. Instead Jesus insists that what they need most is the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT
      1. Convict
      2. Guide
      3. Encourage
      4. Gift
      5. “The boy named Sue” Country Soung!
3. **Unity 21:00**
   1. There was a beauty in our Country at the beginning of Lockdown – we responded to this common crisis with common focus.
   2. World cup mirror covers!
   3. #2nd Section of Acts is all about God Reuniting Israel and the surrounding countries and peoples into One Family of God!
   4. Together:
   5. Spouse / Family / Community of Faith / Loc Church
   6. Power of agreement “two or more”
      1. Don’t larger, walk with friends!
   7. Alignment: energy and speed is wasted by always having to correct the course vs charging in the same direction!
4. **Persecution 23:00**
   1. Challenge isn’t failure!
   2. Don’t stop! Don’t give in!
   3. Bring the Life!
5. **New leaders**
6. Talking the Walk
7. 2:42 life
8. **[Main Point:]**
9. Seek life
   1. Like stepping into a Sun beam
   2. NB Spiritual AND Personal
10. Cultivate
    1. Return there often
    2. Find ways – don’t let these moments be stolen!
11. Prune
    1. New life comes on the new shoots!
    2. May need to make some room: Schedule, Thinking, Heart.
12. Seasons
13. No condemnation,

CONCLUSION:

Tyrone Daniel who leaders the NCMI team, tells the story of Australian cattle farmers in the Out Back – vast areas of 100’s of Kms of dry and deserted land. But the farmers have no fences to stop the cattle from getting lost or wandering off.

When they asked the farmer how do they keep track of their cattle, the farmer answered:

“Water is such a precious source of life in the outback, we don’t need to make fences to force the animals to stay on the farm, we rather provide fresh water stations and the cattle choose to stay near this source of life!

… Find the life!!

I’m pretty sure already you’ve found some weeks are harder than others … find the life!

There is little more impressive than a Christian with the life of God in clear evidence!

That you and I would become one of the characters of Acts Alive! That the Life if God could flow thru us, point all around us to Jesus!