

“No Longer Them and Us”
Acts 11:1-3
Come, Holy Spirit: The Book of Acts Sermon Series
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July 5, 2020

“Doing what is right is not always popular. Doing what is popular is not always right.”

Church is not a place we go. Church is _____ we are.

Our job as _____ is “to engage culture without compromising the gospel.” – Alan Hirsch

We are to _____ the redemptive mission of God to the whole world through the work of Jesus.

Some Questions:

What is the connection between your faith and your activities this weekend?

How are your everyday activities shaped by Jesus or society?

What gaps do we have between our beliefs and our ways of life?

What happens when you follow God?

Acts 11:1-2

Peter does what God asks him to do and is _____ by conservative Jewish Christians.

In college fraternity life, I learned you always have to watch out for the _____.

Acts 11:4-12a

Peter does not _____ but gives his testimony.

Peter also validates his witness by _____ other people. 12b

Acts 11:13-18

The Holy Spirit fell upon _____ just as it had upon _____.

With the Holy Spirit in charge, there is no longer them and us, but silence, _____, and unity.

The church celebrates the good _____ we find it.

This is so important that Luke relates the story _____ in full on papyrus.

Acts 11:19-21

For the first-time, the church took the _____ to preach the good news of Jesus to Gentiles.

“What the church has always needed, perhaps more than anything else, is people who never care who gains the credit for it as long as the work is done.” – William Barclay

Antioch was the third largest city in the world after Rome and Alexandria.

Antioch was known for luxurious _____ and a deliberate pursuit of pleasure night and day.

Acts 11:22-24

Trust but _____. The church as the people of God needs accountability.

Barnabas _____ and encouraged the new believers.

Barnabas is described as _____, full of the Holy Spirit, and a person of _____.

Action Step: _____ in the grace of God and _____ those around you to remain faithful.

Come, Holy Spirit Weekly Study Guide

July 5-11

Acts Chapters 16 – 20

Monday – Acts 16: *“When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.’ And she prevailed upon us.”* Acts 16:15

There are two different baptism moments in this chapter, and each of them is followed by acts of radical hospitality. First is the baptism of Lydia followed by the invitation for Paul and his companions to stay at her house. The second comes following the baptism of the jailer, who invites the companions into his house to share a meal.

How do you define “family?” What does radical hospitality look like for your immediate family? What does it look like in your family of faith?

Tuesday – Acts 17: *“When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, ‘These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests.’”* Acts 17:6-7

The protestors who took issue with Paul’s teaching and inclusion formed a mob, and while they were unable to capture Paul, they took hold of someone who showed Paul and his companion’s hospitality. Admittedly, the accusation against Jason is a bit hyperbolic in our reading, and yet, it is absolutely true. To follow Christ and to live a Gospel-guided life, we may find ourselves going against the grain of our culture.

What is something in the teachings of Jesus that seems to go against a prevalent behavior or attitude that you encounter in our community?

Wednesday – Acts 18: *“Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures.”* Acts 18:24

Apollos came from one of the most highly educated population centers in the ancient world. He undoubtedly had as much book knowledge about the early Christian faith as one person could have, and yet when he encounters Priscilla and Aquila, he realizes that there is more to this faith than what he has learned. In this scene we are reminded that our discipleship – growing in God’s grace – is not linear or functional in the way a course catalog may be.

Who is someone in your life that has shaped your understanding of the Scriptures and influenced your faith journey? Reach out to them this week and share a word of thanks.

Thursday – Acts 19: *“A man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the artisans. These he gathered together, with the workers of the same trade, and said, ‘Men, you know that we get our wealth from this business.’”* Acts 19:24-25

The Gospel of Jesus Christ has economic consequences. The artisans and merchants who thrived off of casting silver idols of Greek gods were directly threatened by the message that Paul and his companions preached about the one true God found in the resurrected Christ. The larger the number of believers, the more negative impact they would experience in their trade.

What is something tangible that you have had to give up as a part of following Jesus?

Friday – Acts 20: *“In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* Acts 20:35

In Paul’s final words to the people of Ephesus, he reminds them that they will be easily distracted. There will be people who will water-down the Gospel and dilute the truth and impact. He encourages them to keep the faith, and in his last exhortation, he tells them to remember the weak. The weak are always the ones which we forget first.

Who in your sphere of influence have you lost sight of recently? How can you reach out to them and show that you remember them?