

Introduction: Pg. 909 (Thanks for the Cans of Soup!)

Tonight... Brady, Belichick, Bob Kraft. We are going for our 6th Super Bowl.....

Here's the motto for this Super Bowl: **"Not Done."** **PIC** Those 13 wins in the regular season were great, but we're NOT DONE. Those wins over Tennessee and Jacksonville were great, but we're NOT DONE. The third regular season NFL MVP for the GOAT (Greatest of All Time, aka, Tom Brady, conferred upon him last night, was Great, but we're - say it with me - NOT DONE.

The work is not done until it's done. "Do your job." "No Days Off." "Not Done."

Notice in verse one that Luke says he "dealt with all Jesus Began to Do and Teach"

- The focus on Jesus words and deeds is a clear theme of Luke's gospel (just check out Luke 4 for a great example), but I love the implication of Luke's words "all that Jesus *began* to do and teach."
- Though his time on earth was coming to a close, his influence and ministry were "not done!"
- In these critical days of transition, Jesus set up his closest followers to ignite the continuation of his ministry.

That's why we're calling the first our first sermon in this series...

"Jesus Overflowing" Acts 1:1-11

Read 1:1-3 (or 1-11)

I. The Book of Acts is about the Resurrected Jesus overflowing.

The opening words of the book reveal both the author and audience.

- Though the author does not identify himself, history tells us it was written by a man named Luke. Luke was a doctor and a historian.
- Some believe Luke is using a pseudonym to cover up the real identity of this one called "Theophilus," which means "lover of God." Others think Theophilus represents a general audience, but it is likely he was a new convert to Christianity who helped cover the costs of Luke's research. That work produced two volumes covering the teaching, miracles, death and resurrection of Jesus (in the Gospel of Luke) *and* this book (Acts) which tells how the upstart Jesus movement quickly expanded into a worldwide phenomenon.
- Scholars refer to Acts as a "historiography," which is different than a biography, in that it focuses on presenting a selective record of the acts of a person or group of people in a chronological or geographical manner.
- The role of Acts in the New Testament is crucial. Not only does it give a history of the early church, but It also provides a historical background for the rest of the Bible from Romans through Revelation. (Polhill)
 - It helps show how the Jesus movement is the fulfillment of Jewish hopes.
 - And it gives the church in every age an inspiring playbook on how to live as a unified and diverse church that is wholeheartedly committed to honoring God.
 - It shows us what people who are full of God look like! It shows us the ingredients of revival as Jesus continues his rescue mission of love!

What did Jesus do in these 40 days?

- First and foremost, he proved that Jesus though once dead, now he is undead. He presented himself alive! (The book of Acts centers around the news that Jesus rose from the dead. As you read through Acts this month (hold up Reading Plan, underline every time you see the theme of RESURRECTION.

- These multiple appearances over many days show this was not an aberration or hallucination. Jesus talked with the disciples, shared meals with the disciples, and revealed himself to hundreds of people.
 - All of these “Proofs” helped them be convinced in a decisive manner. (BDAG)
 - This is so crucial because Christianity rises and falls on the resurrection
- He presented himself alive and prepared them for their assignment by continuing to teach them about the kingdom of God “through the Holy Spirit.”
 - The kingdom was the primary theme of Jesus’ ministry. The first words of his public ministry recorded by Matthew were: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17)
 - The kingdom refers “to God’s promised rule that comes with Jesus’ messianic program and activity.”
 - Just like the gospels, the book of Acts will clue us in to what the kingdom is about...
 - Reconciliation with God and man
 - Forgiveness and Friendship with God,
 - Power to serve others, and...
 - Bring healing, reversing the effects of the fall, etc etc etc
 - Even though Acts does not mention the kingdom much explicitly, it is significant that the book begins (1:3) and ends (28:31) on that theme.

T: The resurrected Christ and his ministry are overflowing, but amazingly, he chose to...

II. The Book of Acts is about **the Resurrected Jesus overflowing through his people.**

Read 4-5

When Jesus left, he left his mission in the hands of his followers. If you were God, would that have been your next move?

Ordinary People

- These were just any people. They were extremely ordinary people. Unlikely suspects: they never had formal training, not much was expected from them. They spoke with rural accents. Before following Jesus, they spent their time catching fish, collecting taxes (not a way to win friends), and one (Simon the Zealot) had dreams of overthrowing the Roman government. Needless to say, they were a little rough around the edges, but don’t you know that God loves using ordinary people to show how extraordinary he is in his mercy, love, and grace!
- If you don’t think you can cut it, you are in a prime position for God to use you!
- And while I’m on the topic, if you think God will use you because of your great looks or skills or intellect you could not be more off track. (Rw)

Do you believe God can use you? Do you believe God wants to use you? We have to settle this question. God, help us answer in the affirmative. (2 Cor. 4:7)

T: He overflows through us. Ordinary men and ordinary women are his method! But to ordinary people, he has given his...

Extraordinary Promise

- Jesus tells them to stay in Jerusalem, because there he would “baptize them with the Holy Spirit.”
- In Acts we see the Spirit referenced with the words: “promise, gift, outpouring, baptism, *fullness*, power, witness, and guidance.”
- I am going to talk a lot about Spirit baptism next week, but the essence of Spirit baptism is receiving the presence and power of the Spirit that saves us, continues to change us, and empowers us for everything we need as he dwells in us.

- We cannot overemphasize the role of the Spirit in the book of Acts and consequently the church today.
- The coming of God’s Spirit to dwell in his people was further evidence of the new Covenant (the new relationship of shared promises between God and his people)
 - It stretched back to the prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Joel.
 - In **Ezekiel 36:26-27**, God said: “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **And I will put my Spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.”

The Book of Acts is about...

III. The Resurrected Jesus overflowing through his people by his Spirit.

Read 6-11 {P}

The Mission of Jesus Continues...

Kingdom expansion, not consummation. Their sincere question in *verse 6* reveals their misunderstandings.

- They thought the Messiah’s arrival meant the imminent restoration of their nation, but Jesus recalibrated their time-table and said, “Don’t worry about when. The Father will bring it about his timing.”
- More importantly, they thought this restoration would be political in nature, bringing about holistic flourishing for Israel.
- If we look closely, we will see that Jesus not only “depoliticizes” their expectations, but he actually flips them upside-down. He wanted them to see the dream was NEVER becoming the most powerful nation in the world, which all other nations would serve, but being the nation that would go serve all other nations with God’s power!

T: Which is where he takes them in verse 8, one of the Bible’s most important verses.

By the power of the Spirit

- When God asks us to do something, he gives us everything we need to get the job done.
- The disciples were about to receive the Holy Spirit, who now dwells in every believer IN CHRIST.
 - We’re talking about the same Spirit that filled Jesus during his ministry now empowering us!
 - We’re talking about divine power. Perhaps you’ve heard the word here for “power” is *dynamis*, which many preachers love to note that we get the word dynamite from that Greek word.
 - Listen... Paul didn’t have dynamite in mind when he wrote this. It’s reading a 19th century usage back into a 1st century word. There is nothing destructive about it.
 - It is a remarkable power that is constructive and fortifies us. Even more amazing than the idea of dynamite is knowing this word was used of Jesus’ miracles in the gospels.
- I believe Jesus highlights the empowering work of his Spirit because he knew the scope of our weaknesses and limitations. He knows we cannot do this on our own! And we were never supposed to.
- Jesus brings power to the powerless.
- The same Spirit who empowered Jesus for his ministry empowers us!
- That’s why our Vision is so extremely crucial and so extremely relevant for every moment of every day. We need **the fullness of God in us overflowing through us** (be being filled with the Spirit).

- I don't know where you are this morning, but if you're anything like me, you often operate in your own power and you need more of God's power at work in you! (IF you are anything like me.)
- Don't move without his power! (Exodus 33; Exodus 14:14; 1 Samuel 17).
 - The whole Bible tells us - The battle is the Lord's
 - Victory belongs to him!

T: The Spirit's POWER is tied to OUR...

WITNESS

- The filling of God's Spirit, as we will see in chapter 2 through 28 (That's the entire book - that's a BIG DEAL!), provides us with divine power to speak boldly as a witness of who Jesus is and what he has done.
- A witness is someone "who helps establish [the objective] facts through verifiable observation." (Bock)
 - These people were raising their hands. Yes, I saw him do what everyone said the Messiah would do. Yes, I saw him alive after the Roman centurion made sure he was dead!
 - NOW... it's our privilege, just as it was their privilege to raise our hand. Hey, he's really God. He really loves us. He's really changed me. He's really alive. He's really alive in me.
- He is the message. He is the one who has saved us. If not for his life, death, and resurrection, we'd be done. We'd have nothing.
- Salvation is a gift to be shared. Don't sit on the gift. Share the gift.
- The final words of Jesus give us our focus. Mission is not secondary or tertiary; it is primary. God desires all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Tim 2:5).
- Our greatest focus as believers should making sure more and more and more people have the opportunity to hear what Jesus has done for them. Our mission as a church is "to glorify God by living out his mission as a community transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ." That's what we're about.
- Salvation is a gift that is to be shared. We should not be stingy when God has been so generous to us.
- If getting the gospel to more people is not a burning desire in our hearts, (TO PUT IT IN CONCRETE TERMS), if it has been weeks or months, perhaps a year or more since we have shared this good news, we need these words of Jesus and the Holy Spirit to get all up in our business! Which he is very glad to do!
- But if you feel discouraged even by the reality of your lack of witness, here's hope for you: Acts will encourage and challenge and equip and inspire us to boldly share the news about Jesus in a natural way with the people we care about.
- (HONEST EVANGELISM BOOK PLUG?)

T: And we are to share this news anywhere and everywhere.

Everywhere! To the World!

- Verse 8 serves as an outline for the book of Acts:
 - There is a clear Geographical impetus (moving out from the home base in Jerusalem (Acts 1-7), to the rest of the surrounding area in Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-10), and ultimately "to the end of the earth" (Acts 13-28), the remote areas of the world), but there is also a...
 - Spiritual impetus marked by hatred and fear. He says, go to Jerusalem & Judea (where they want to kill you); Samaria (where you hate them); and the ends of the earth (where you've never been).

- The point is this: Jesus wants all people to know him.
 - This is the beauty of living in Boston, one of the greatest mission fields in the world!
 - People from all over the globe are right here.
- But we're not content with that, we also want to go. We want to send people to serve the world. That's why we work with churches in Montreal and NYC that are working amongst predominantly immigrant populations, and that's why we have partners in Africa, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, places where the gospel is desperately needed.
- Perhaps God will call you to go on a short-term trip. Perhaps God will call you to give your life to an unreached people group that has little to no access to the gospel. We will send you with Joy!

T: That is our assignment, and our assignment is backed by his authority.

Confidence comes from the Ascended Christ.

- In verses 9-11, the apostles actually see Jesus ascend to heaven right before their eyes!
 - Luke uses three different verbs were used for "seeing." in 9-11. It was a real event.
 - It was an event designed to give them confidence.
- Jesus has power over the grave and now sits at the right hand of God the Father, holding complete authority over everything that happens in heaven and on earth.
 - Great Commission: "All authority in heaven..."
 - He exercises his power from heaven by his Spirit who continues to advance his mission today through people like you and me. Crazy!
- This is the whole point. "Do not look up and merely be idle, waiting for the return, but move out and [take the news of Jesus to the world.]"

The mission is in our hands. Invite the band up!

The Point: The ministry of Jesus overflows through his Spirit empowered people.

Conclusion:

I got an email this week. The subject: "Is this you, Tanner?"

- Read relevant sections. This stuff makes my stomach hurt for so many reasons.
- Forget the gimmicks. Live in the power of the Spirit.
- But let me say this: if the Book of Acts grabs ahold of us, more importantly, if the Holy Spirit fills us with himself, and "we live in his power." doubling our church size this year, is most certainly NOT IMPOSSIBLE. I believe it is probable!
- The church in Acts grew rapidly. Over and over and over again, it says the church grew, more were added to their number day by day (2:47), the Word increased and the number of disciples multiplied (6:7).

Why not us? Why not, now? The mission is in our hands. Jesus is ready to overflow again!