

Bible Study

Gods Word in Focus



Week Thirty Two

Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1:1-26

The Holy Spirit Promised

Acts 1:1-8

Jesus began to do many things when he was working on earth. He also began to teach people many things. I told you about all these things in the first book that I wrote for you, Theophilus.

I told you about the things that Jesus did until God took Him up into heaven. Jesus had chosen some men to be his apostles. He had told them by the Holy Spirit what they must do. Then God took Jesus back to heaven.

Jesus had died and then he became alive again. During the 40 days after that, he showed himself many times to his apostles. He showed himself in different ways. They could then be sure that Jesus was really alive again. The apostles often saw Jesus, and he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

While Jesus was still with his apostles, he spoke to them. He said, 'Do not leave Jerusalem yet. You must wait there for my Father's gift that I told you about. My Father promised to give it to you.

John baptised people with water, but after a few days God will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Jesus Ascends to heaven

Acts 1:9-11

Jesus' apostles all met together with him. 'Lord', they said, 'will you at this time give the people of Israel their kingdom back? Will they now rule their own country again?'

'My Father decides when things will happen in the world', Jesus replied. 'He does not want you to know when this will happen.

But the Holy Spirit will come to you, and he will cause you to become powerful. The Holy Spirit will cause your spirit to be strong. Then you can tell other people about me. You will tell people about me in Jerusalem, in Judea, in Samaria and in all other countries.'

When Jesus had finished speaking to his apostles, God took him up into God's home. The apostles watched Jesus go. Then a cloud hid him and the apostles could not see him any longer.

The apostles were still looking carefully up into the sky when suddenly two men appeared. The men were wearing white clothes and they stood near the apostles.

Then they spoke to the apostles. 'You men from Galilee, you should not still be standing here', they said. 'You should not still look up into the sky. God has taken Jesus into heaven. You saw the way that Jesus went up to heaven. One day, he will return in the same way.'

The Upper Room Prayer Meeting

Acts 1:12-14

Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives. The Mount of Olives was about one kilometer from the city. When the apostles arrived in Jerusalem, they went upstairs. And they went into the room where they were staying. The names of the apostles were Peter, John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew. The other apostles, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas, the son of James, were also there.

The apostles often met together in a group to pray. They prayed together with Mary, Jesus' mother, other women and his brothers.

Matthias Chosen

Acts 1:15-26

A few days after that, about 120 people met together. These people all believed in Jesus. Peter stood up and he spoke to them.

'My friends', he said, 'Long ago, the Holy Spirit spoke to King David and David wrote down this message. He wrote about the things that Judas would do. These things had to happen and now they have happened. Judas showed the soldiers how to catch Jesus. Judas helped them to do it.

Judas was in our group, because Jesus chose him. He chose Judas to work together with us.'

The priests gave Judas some money because he had helped them. Judas bought a field with that money. But he then fell down in that field and he died. His body broke open and the inside of his body fell out.

All the people who lived in Jerusalem heard about the death of Judas. So the people called that field Akeldama in their own language. Akeldama means 'The Field of Blood'.

Peter continued, 'King David wrote in the book of Psalms, "So the house that he had will be empty. Nobody should live in it." King David also wrote in the same book, "So, another person must do his work."'

'Because of this, we need to choose another man', said Peter. 'This man must have been together with us from the beginning. He must have been in our group all the time that Jesus was with us.

The man must have been with us when John was baptising people. He must have stayed with us while Jesus was working. He must have been with us when Jesus went up to heaven. Then he can say to the people, "I know that our master died. I saw him after he became alive again."'

So the group said the names of two men. One of these men was Joseph, who had two other names. People also called him Barsabbas and sometimes people called him Justus. The other man was called Matthias. Then the whole group prayed. 'Lord, you know what everybody is really thinking', they said. 'Please show us which man you have chosen. Which of these two men do you want to be an apostle? Judas left his work as an apostle. He has gone to the right place for him.'

Then the group chose which of the men would do the work of an apostle. It happened that they chose Matthias. So Matthias took the place of Judas and he became the twelfth apostle, together with the other