Sermon Summary

The book of Acts tells us the story of the first 30 years of the history of the New Testament Church as it spreads from Jerusalem all the way to the Rome in the heart of the Empire. It’s the beginning of the fulfilment of the Great Commission, to take the gospel to the ends of the earth and make disciples of all nations. This is our story. The contents of this book sets the tone for what we too should expect if we are take up that commission in our day.

In these opening verses, Dr. Luke gives us an insight into how the Lord Jesus readied and prepared his disciples for the task ahead of them.

Personal Application

Q Read v1-2. Who is writing this book and what is his “former book”? What was that former book about? Who does Luke tell us will continue to be the main player in his second book? Why is that surprising?!

Q Read v3-4. How long did Jesus stay with His disciples for after His resurrection? What was He doing all that time? Why do you think it was important He did this?

Q Read v4-5. Why does Jesus want His disciples to wait in Jerusalem?

Q Read v6-11. What is the task that the disciples will need the Holy Spirit for? Is this still true today?

Q Why would it be a bad idea to try and go about this task (v8) without the power of the Holy Spirit? How do we get this power today?

Q These last verses indicate that our task of being Jesus’ witnesses will continue until He returns (see especially v11). What kinds of things are likely to distract us from keeping going with it?
Date: 2nd May 2021  Passage: Acts 1:12-26  Preacher: Andy Bruins

Sermon Summary

In the first half of chapter 1, before His ascension, Jesus prepares His disciples for their global mission. In the second half we see the disciples preparing themselves.

We find the disciples meeting constantly together in an upper room, waiting for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit so that they can start the task of being Jesus’ witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Their preparation involves prayer, meditating on God’s Word and appointing a replacement for Judas.

Personal Application

Q Read v12-14. Jesus’ followers are gathered together in Jerusalem, behind locked doors. Who is in this group of disciples? Are there any surprises?

Q What is this band of brothers and sisters doing?

Q Why was prayer so important to these first disciples? What advice would you give to someone who finds it hard to motivate themselves to pray?

Q Read v15-22. Why does Peter come to the conclusion that they need to find a replacement for Judas?

Q What are the criteria they use for choosing an Apostle? Why are they necessary? (For further thought: How does the Apostle Paul meet these criteria?)

Q What are the principles that these disciples use for making important decisions, and how are they still helpful for us today?
Acts chapter 2 records the events of the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was a Jewish feast which marked the beginning of the wheat harvest. People have gone from all over the world to celebrate it, and this is the day when Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit of all of His people.

This was what the disciples had been waiting for; Jesus has clothed them with power so that they could now be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Now the time was right to go and make disciples of all nations.

Q Read v1-4. The disciples are gathered together when Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to them. What are the 3 phenomena that accompany this event?

Q What is strange about the wind and the fire? What do these signs point to? (Have a look at John 3:5-8 and Exodus 3:1-6)

Q Read v5-13. Why do you think Luke goes into so much detail about who is in this crowd, and how does it relate to the third phenomenon – the ability to supernaturally speak languages?

Q What do you think are the reasons for why the crowd is so confused by what they are seeing and hearing? (v12)

Q Take a look at Genesis 11:1-9. Why did God originally confuse the languages of the nations? How does this help you understand the significance of this third sign at Pentecost?

Q How does this passage encourage us in the task of taking the gospel to our friends?