

*Series:* How Jesus Acts Through Us Today; *Sermon:* **What Jesus Is Continuing to Do;** *delivered by* **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on February 9, 2020

***Bible text explored: Acts 1:1–11***

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup>He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup>And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup>and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” [ESV]

***Review and application:***

1. What sponsoring patron is common to both Luke (1:3-4) and Acts (1-2)?  
What (vv. 1-2a) was the content of the first volume?  
How does today’s passage carry on from *Luke 24:45-48*?  
How is the thrust of Acts previewed in Luke? (See, *Luke 4:43*.)
2. While the Acts narrative is accurate, why is seeing it as only a historical record inadequate?  
How is its thrust prescriptive as well as descriptive?
3. What (v. 3) did the resurrected Jesus stress about what had already happened?  
Why (vv. 4-5) would leaving Jerusalem right away be premature?  
What was the “promise of the Father”? (See *John 14:15-17*.)
4. What (v. 1) is the significance of the word *began*?  
How (v. 8) are all Jesus followers to expand the Kingdom of God?  
*Jesus’ last words previewed the witnessing Acts records in Jerusalem (chapters 1-7); in Judea and Samaria (chapters 8-12); and to the ends of the earth (chapters 13-28).*
5. Is there any sense in the final sentence of Acts (28:30-31) that there should be any let-up in Kingdom expansion?
6. What (v. 9) was significant about Jesus being lifted up into a cloud?  
(See *Dan. 7:13-14*.)

7. What (vv. 10-11) assurance did the angelic messengers give about Jesus' return? (See also *Matt. 24:30*.)

What distractions did their question suggest that we should avoid? (See also vv. 6-7.)

8. Reflect on the final stanza of our closing hymn:

*Hear the call of the kingdom to reach out to the lost  
with the Father's compassion in the wonder of the cross,  
bringing peace and forgiveness and hope yet to come,  
let the nations put their trust in Him.*

*King of heaven, we will answer the call.  
We will follow, bringing hope to the world  
filled with passion, filled with power  
to proclaim salvation in Jesus' name.*