

Union United Methodist Church

Sermon Outline: **The Acts of the Holy Spirit, Part 1: GO, PREACH, APPLY**

June 18th, 2023. Pastor Michael Larbi

Readings: **Acts 3; Matthew 9:35-10:8**

1. Introduction: The Acts of the Holy Spirit.

The sermons of the last few weeks have covered Acts 1 and 2, and last week we looked at Acts 3:1-10. The book of Acts is titled the Acts of the Apostles. Some have said the title is not really accurate. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in the early church that are recorded in the book of Acts. Thus, as we continue in Acts, I would like to focus on what the Holy Spirit did in the lives and ministry of the early disciples of Christ and how the Church became established and grew as a result.

One reason for this emphasis is that, if we and our church is to grow in grace and the knowledge of Christ, we must grow in dependence on the Holy Spirit. Jesus did, the early Church did, and so must we. This applies to us as individual Christians and to our church family as well.

2. Recall: The Works of Jesus

- Why Did Jesus Come?

"The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." 1 John 3:8 NIV

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10 NRSV

- How Did Jesus Do This? By the Power of the Holy Spirit

In Luke 4, we see that read this scripture from Isaiah 61 about himself:

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,**

**to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”** Luke 4:18-19 NRSV

Jesus did and does these works because the Spirit of God was on him.

Isaiah again prophesied about the Holy Spirit's work in the ministry of Jesus:

“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. **2The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him [ANOINTING], the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.**” Isaiah 11:1-2 NRSV

- **Without Christ and His Anointing, We Cannot Bear Fruit** – John 15:3-5

- **Inside us, the Holy Spirit helps us**

Isaiah 11:1-2 describes the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, might (energy, strength, power,...), counsel ...

- **The Holy Spirit Comes Upon us**, to empowers us to be effective witnesses for Christ – Acts 1:8

3. **What Jesus Did, and Commands Us To Do**

- **Jesus's Example of Ministry**

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.” Matthew 9:35 NIV

Jesus was intentional in his ministry.

- **He went** where the need was.
- **He preached** (proclaimed) the good news of God's kingdom – under the power of the Holy Spirit (anointed to bring good news)
- **He applied the power of the Holy Spirit** – healing every disease and sickness.

- **Our Commission**

We are commanded to do what Jesus did and in the way He did it.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.**

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 NIV

“Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and **gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.**”

Matthew 10:1NIV

Like Jesus, we are to

- **GO** where the need is
- **PREACH**/PROCLAIM the gospel under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
- **APPLY**/ EXERCISE the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit

- **The Apostle’s Example in Acts 3**

The apostles practiced the GO, PREACH, APPLY methodology of Jesus and were spectacularly successful:

- **GO, APPLY:**

They went where the need was – the temple, and the crippled beggar. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they applied the name of Jesus to the need.

⁴Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk Acts 3:4-8 NIV.

- **PREACH**

In this case, the miracle opened the way to the preaching of the gospel.

Key points in the sermon (Acts 3, NIV):

- **16By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him**, as you can all see.
- **19Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord**

- **The Role of Compassion**

36When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

37Then he said to his disciples,

"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

38Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Matthew 9:36-38 NIV

35Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'?

I tell you, **open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.**

36Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.

38I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.

Compassion:

- Opens our eyes to the needs around us - which are primarily spiritual
- Helps us to see the extent of the work
- Brings us to a place of prayer ("Ask the Lord of the harvest...")
- Motivates us to GO, PREACH, APPLY