

Acts 1

Most of the world's religions can exist apart from their founder.

Yet the faith of Christianity, a follower of Christ, one who follows in his footsteps, cannot exist without Jesus himself, the cross and resurrection is the starting point.

If Christianity is just a set of ideas or ethics, it evaporates, like morning mist.

We aren't just trying to imitate, we are surrendering our wills to his.

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One must keep on pointing out that Christianity is a statement which, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important.

C.S. Lewis

Luke tells his friends of the acts that the followers did in response to the power of God coming upon their life. They become truth tellers.

Truth is by definition the exclusive and narrow way.

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"Integrity is telling myself the truth. And honesty is telling the truth to other people."

— **Spencer Johnson**

Acts is told after the persecution is taking place, these people are not leading comfortable lives.

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"Truth never damages a cause that is just."

— **Mahatma Gandhi**

The disciples were turning away, yet now they re-align their whole world. The actions of the disciples, confirm the truth of the resurrection!

God's Kingdom, is built by seeking the Spirit of God.

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What do you see- - example of video

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Getting a bigger picture- Drone Footage.

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The Disciples still didn't get it.

1. They were looking for a political kingdom
2. They were looking for a geographically restricted Kingdom
3. They were looking for an ethnically restricted kingdom

The Problem, the world seems to think that things which are invisible are unimportant.

God says the invisible will stand while the visible will pass away.

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Matt 24:35 Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

People need to come to understand that

If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end; if you look for comfort you will not get either comfort or truth only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin, and in the end, despair.

C.S. Lewis

Things like, redemption, regeneration , justification. These are things which will stand.

A Dynamite kingdom.

Do we often feel that? Yet ask when we did, what had been our attitude, towards God.

1. We can't build the kingdom of God via money
2. We can't build the kingdom via Law (using a legal system boils down to using force upon a nation)- However, where the kingdom advances, good laws follow

3. We can't build the kingdom via miracles.(Miracles rarely build life changing faith)

You build via witnessing.

Verbally speaking of why you believe the things you do

Physically following through in a consistent and Characteristic manner

To be a witness meant that nothing could shut you up about the true Jesus Christ

We become the truth tellers, ones who can be relied on no matter the person who is listening

“The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it.”

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Famous Understudies-

"In 1963, the audience at Covent Garden gasped in shock when they heard that the tenor Giuseppe di Stefano had come down with an illness and would be unable to sing in a production of La Boheme.

Fortunately a promising young tenor had been engaged as an understudy. Operatic agent Joan Ingpen, had anticipated the ailing di Stefano's possible absence and enticed young Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti to be his understudy, after hearing him sing with the Dublin Grand Opera Society.

She had promised Pavarotti he would at least take the stage for the final performance, but it turned out he sang at every show but the opening night.

In the 1960s, Sir Laurence Olivier took a shine to a promising young actor languishing in repertory theatre and gave him a job as an understudy with the Royal National Theatre of England.

Olivier suffered a bout of appendicitis during a 1965 production of Strindberg's Dance Of Death and the young actor was given his chance.

Olivier later wrote "A new young actor in the company of exceptional promise named Anthony Hopkins was understudying me and walked away with the part of Edgar like a cat with a mouse between its teeth."

One of the best known understudy elevations was Wiggles dancer Sam Moran who stood in for yellow Wiggle Greg Page for 150 shows until Page had to leave the group for medical reasons. Moran is now the yellow Wiggle."- <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/understudies-and-their-breaks-to-stardom/news->

[story/81fd1031f471b2cb21d45b8822aa72c4?sv=dfa1c7ac8a9596e750565416f16db5c2](https://www.bible.com/story/81fd1031f471b2cb21d45b8822aa72c4?sv=dfa1c7ac8a9596e750565416f16db5c2)

Qualifications-Matt

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1st Point, Do you care?

“95% of knowing the will of God consists in being willing to do it before you know what it is.”

illustration: “In order to find God’s will for the future, you must be doing God’s will in the present.” –MacArthur

The problem with individual society, we make our own decisions far too easily, with no context to the greater community of faith.

What they did, 10 day prayer meeting, (between ascension and Pentecost)

The minister who asked the person to pray with him for 1/2 hour before they talked about the issue.

They did as they were told (to wait)

Being in Obedience ,fellowship and prayer.

Peter in studying the scriptures, was led to suggest they needed to replace Judas

Obedient, meeting together, prayer and bible study.

This time will need all the leaders, and so they came to this decisions.

Note well, who wasn’t automatically consulted or considered, Mary was not asked to directly talk to Jesus! James the brother of Jesus, was not just fronted and asked on board.

Don’t feel sorry for Judas.

John Calvin, for all his emphasis on the sovereignty of God, declared, “Judas may not be excused on the ground that what befell him was prophesied, since he fell away not through the compulsion of the prophecy but through the wickedness of his own heart.” God did not

force Judas into his betrayal against his will. Judas represents the greatest perhaps the greatest example of wasted opportunity in all of history.

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1. United, extended prayer
2. Scriptural authority for the action.
3. Objective criteria had to be met...
4. Unity among the whole group on the two candidates. Only after all those steps were completed were they able to identify two equally qualified men. Then they prayed and asked God to overrule chance and choose His man.

It's easier to act on something we have controlled totally.

“If we can give a reason for what we are doing, then we are not necessarily learning obedience, at least nor simple obedience. What we are really doing is trusting our ability to reason things out.”- James Montgomery Boice.

“When God throws the dice are loaded.”
Greek proverb quotes

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Point 2, Matthias was still there.

But there is something here we don't want to miss. Matthias was not originally chosen among the twelve. What do you do when you don't get chosen for that special place? You keep following and serving Jesus anyway. What if Matthias had gotten offended because Jesus didn't choose him to be one of the twelve? What if in that offense he had decided to pull back and do something else? He too would have been absent from this meeting. He would have disqualified himself and never become one of the twelve. Sometimes our hearts get tested when we think we deserve a place and someone else gets it. The right response is to continue faithfully anyway.

Point 3, We never hear of him again, what did he do, who was he, what recognition did he have.

Matthew 19:27-28 (NLT) Then Peter said to him, “We've given up everything to follow you. What will we get?”

28 Jesus replied, "I assure you that when the world is made new and the Son of Man sits upon his glorious throne, you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Noticed results have no bearing on the godliness of decisions.

Are you prepared

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I think a disciple of Christ is.....?

How do explain what the kingdom of God is like, what does it mean to you?