



Session #5: Unleashing it, not planning it

Fallow Ground Project

November 2, 1016

The Word:

¹ In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ² until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. ⁴ And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, ⁵ for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." ⁹ And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ 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." ¹

Acts 1:1-11

- What words jump off the page at you? Why?
- What does this passage have to teach us?
- What implications does it have for the way in which we live?
- What questions does this raise for you?
- What does it tell us about the heart of God? The heart of humans?
- What does it mean to you personally?

¹ *The Revised Standard Version*, Ac 1:1–11 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1971).

Teaching Point:

- **See video of Dancing Man (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW8amMCVAJQ>)**
- What are your reactions? Was this a planned event or was it unleashed? Explain the difference?
- **The first 7 chapters of Acts -- was the church a movement or an institution? Give some justification for your thoughts?**
- **A movement happens and institution is maintained...**
- In the passage above notice the movement:
- 1. Jesus showed up and was talking about the Kingdom of God (can you define the Kingdom of God?)
- 2. Jesus said wait in Jerusalem till the Spirit comes as was promised
- 3. Their reaction: Is it time for the Kingdom of Israel to be restored?
 - A very human response
 - Need/want a visible take over/restoration
- 4. Not for you to know that end time, but let me tell you about what you need to know NOW
- 5. You are to be my witnesses, after and only after the HS comes upon you
- 6. Why are you standing around staring at the sky, go and wait for God to move
- How does this compare with the way we do church today?
- We have to ask this question, "what role does planning have in a church's life? What about our lives?" Furthermore, what role does the Holy Spirit play?
- How does passage challenge us? What implications does this have for 'how' we do church?
- What does this mean for ministry inside and outside the walls of the church?

Time for group reflection (lean into Acts 1-7 and Barbarian Way)

- What are your reactions to Acts 1-7? What really struck in the reading or our discussion of it this morning?
- Are we doing the work of the church? If not, what are we doing? What needs to change? What do we need to keep the same?
- What themes does God seem to be pushing on in your own heart as you read?
- Anything else you would like to talk about?

Time for Personal response:

Housekeeping business:

- **Next meeting: November 16th or 30th**, 6:00 pm here in the parlor

- For next time:

- Read Acts 8-12

- Read the last chapter of Barbarian Way or is everyone done already?

Check out question:

My name is _____.

For me to more fully participate in the Church, I must _____.

And I am in.

ALL: Bless you

