

# SUNDAY RECAP

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

The *Sunday Recap* is a quick rundown of our time of worship together on Sunday. Our hope is that this will help us continue to reflect on the good news of the gospel all week long. Enjoy!

Recap for: Sunday, January 14, 2018

## SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

*Acts 1:1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach...*

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- How did you come into our Sunday worship gathering? Tired, distracted, joyful, grumpy, excited, etc.? Why was that the case? Now reflect on the fact that no matter how you came to worship, Jesus welcomes you with open arms because He is your righteousness.
- Was there any of the readings or song lyrics that stuck out to you from Sunday? What were they?
- Do you struggle to see God's activity in the present? What's an example of that in your life? Why do you think you struggle with that?
- What about Jesus still leading and being active in the mission of God to spread the Gospel gives you hope? Why?

## POINT OF APPLICATION

- Who can you pray for to come to faith in Jesus throughout our Acts series? Make a list of people and keep it on a postcard or in a journal and regularly pray for them throughout the week. Pray for opportunities to love them and share the gospel with them. As we see God open up opportunities (even if they don't go as planned) lets share those with one another and praise God together.

## QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

- Is Jesus still alive and doing things in the world today? How do we know?
- What's an example of Jesus doing something in our lives today?
- What do you want Jesus to do in your life? In the lives of others you know?
- Who do we know that doesn't know Jesus who we can pray would come to faith in Him?

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Article: [Jesus in Normal Everyday Conversations](#) by Tim Parlier

Video: [How to Overcome Fear in Sharing the Gospel](#) by Jeff Vanderstelt

Book: [The Message of Acts in the History of Redemption](#) by Dennis Johnson

Bible Study: [Acts: A 12 Week Study](#) by Justin Holcomb

## SONGS WE SANG *\*Check out our Spotify playlist here: <https://goo.gl/BQddvV>*

[The One Who Saves](#) by Hillsong

[My Rock and My Redeemer](#) by Sojourn Church

[Blessed Assurance](#) by CeCe Winans

[In the Hours](#) by Indelible Grace

[King of Saints](#) by Red Mountain Church

[May God Keep You](#) by Ordinary Time

## READINGS

### *CALL TO WORSHIP*

L: Praise the LORD!

Praise, O servants of the LORD,

**C: Praise the name of the LORD!**

L: Blessed be the name of the LORD

from this time forth and forevermore!

**C: From the rising of the sun to its setting,**

**the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

L: The LORD is high above all nations,

and his glory above the heavens!

**C: Who is like the LORD our God,**

**who is seated on high,**

**who looks far down**

**on the heavens and the earth?**

L: He raises the poor from the dust

and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes,

with the princes of his people.

He gives the barren woman a home,

making her the joyous mother of children.

**C: Praise the LORD!**

### *PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

L: Dear heavenly father, we praise you for your constant care and great faithfulness in this past year.

Your mercies were new every morning, your steadfast love sustained and encouraged us, and your

grace was sufficient when our days grew difficult and long. As we prepare to begin the new year

together, we now humble ourselves before you.

**C: We will trust not in our new resolutions, but in your Son's great redemption.**

**We are as desperate for you this year as we have been every year of our existence.**

L: We confess our need for the gospel to inform all of our relationships.

**C: Help us to love others in the upcoming year as Jesus loves us.**

L: We confess we will need your Spirit for challenges unseen.

**C: We will need your forgiveness for rejecting your law, for not loving our brothers and sisters, and for repentance that is occasional and half-hearted.**

L: Keep us free from the myth of self-sufficiency and from posing and pretending.

**C: We confess how much we need your grace to change us, for we cannot change ourselves.**

L: Free us to boast in our weakness by boasting more fully in our Savior.

**C: We make our prayer humbly and gladly in Jesus name. Amen.**

### *ASSURANCE OF PARDON*

L: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

**C: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

### *PASSING OF THE PEACE*

Ephesians 4:3 encourages us to be "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

Each week when we share a Passing of the Peace, it is a simple thing, but a profound thing.

We are reminding one another of the gospel. That Jesus has brought us peace with God and peace with one another.

Greeting and extending peace to one another is a way to worship God and enjoy the fruit of the gospel.

So take a moment now and enjoy the peace of the gospel by greeting one another. Taking extra care to greet anyone who might be new.

### *BENEDICTION*

L: May our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the One who came with grace and truth,  
also fill your hearts with grace and truth,  
as you serve him in the days ahead.

And may the joy of the Lord—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— be your strength.

Peace be with you!

**C: And also with you!**

## SERMON REVIEW



### **ACTS 1:1-11 | *The Ascension of Jesus***

At the beginning of Acts we realize we have a problem. That problem is Deism. In other words we struggle to see God's intervening activity in the present. We agree He was active in the past and will be in the future, but the in-between we aren't so sure. We might say we believe it but as Dennis Johnson describes, our actions speak louder than our words:

*Would we say this out loud? Never! But our meager prayer lives, our anxiety, our dependence upon novel techniques in evangelism, our hope in technology to solve spiritual problems - all these testify to our unspoken assumption that God's real action is in the past and in the future, but not in the present. We act as though Jesus wound up the church and then flung us out on our own when we say, "Our Church can't grow in this neighborhood," or "I won't apologize until she does- and she won't!" or "He says he's sorry, but he'll do it again" or "What will become of us?"*

*- Dennis Johnson, The Message of Acts in the History of Redemption*

Luke dismantles a Deistic understanding of God in the very first verse of Acts, and does it with one word- *began*.

*Acts 1:1 In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach*

That word catches by surprise because we were expecting to hear- "In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus did and taught." But that word "began" tells us that the ministry of Jesus doesn't end in the Gospels, nor when He ascends into the heavens. His ministry continues in and through His church by the powerful presence of His spirit.

### **SERMON SUMMARY: ACTS TELLS OF THE THINGS JESUS CONTINUED TO DO AND TEACH**

Just as God did not wind up the world, spin it on its axis and step back and simply watch (ie- "Deism"), nor did Jesus wind up his mission, hand it to the church, and step back and watch. The ministry of Jesus continues through the church! In Jesus it was His ministry through His body, and now it is His ministry through His body. Its just that His body is much more than the body of a Jewish carpenter, it is now the body of the church. He is living and active there, not detached and watching from afar.

As we read Acts, keep in mind it is "This is the continued ministry of Jesus".

For us that means its His ministry in and through us to one another and to our neighbors. Now we understand why it is so important that we spend time with each other and that we be present with unbelievers. For that is where we find the risen Christ. Through His body the church.

As we continue reading in Acts 1 we come to wonder why Jesus gives the instruction to “wait”.

**Acts 1:1–5** In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 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. 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The really interesting piece is the waiting. God could have brought the spirit immediately, but instead he waits a week. If we keep in mind that this account is about the things Jesus continued to do and teach, then this waiting fits the narrative perfectly, doesn't it? If what they were awaiting were merely instructions, he would have given them and sent them off. As they wait they are reminded that this is His ministry and the only way they can be part of it is if they have His presence in them (through the Holy Spirit).

Jesus then tells them they will receive “Power to be witnesses”. That sounds great, but what exactly does that look like? We find ourselves wanting specifics there. But what Luke is encouraging us to do is continue reading his narrative and we'll see exactly what that looks like. We'll see the Apostle Peter go from a man filled with fear to acknowledge he even knows Jesus to a man who is preaching the gospel and telling his hearers that they killed the One who was promised to them.

What we do know about this Spirit that brings power is that Luke has made sure we know it was the same power that the Lord Jesus had with Him. At His baptism we hear that “the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him” (Luke 3:21-22). Then Jesus is sent out into the wilderness to be tempted and how does Luke notes that Jesus was “full of the Holy Spirit” and “led by the Spirit into the wilderness” (Luke 4:1–2). A few verses later Jesus returns “in the power of the Spirit” and teaches in the synagogues (Luke 4:14–15). And when He teaches in the synagogue what does He read? Isaiah 61:1-2 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor...”.

Now we, as His church, empowered with His Spirit, are ready for His mission to proclaim the “good news to the poor” (ie- the gospel) to the world. When we start to get anxious, worrying that we don't know what to say, remember Luke 12:11-12-

*And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, or the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”*

For He who called us is faithful. It is His mission. He is working in and through us by His Spirit to accomplish it. May we prayerfully engage in the mission and trust He will produce a great harvest, and may we do it together, as a community, not simply individually.