

YOU ARE HERE

Acts 16:6 – 10

MAIN POINT: God's Story isn't just ancient history – it's being played out *right now* and it has direct bearing on our lives *today*.

Act 1 – _____

Act 2 – _____

Act 3 – _____

Psalm 103:8 – 14 – ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

Acts 2:22 – 24 – ²² “People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. ²³ But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. ²⁴ But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip.

Act 4 – _____

Acts 3:19 – 21 – ¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. ²⁰ Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. ²¹ For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.

The first followers of Christ were _____

Greek word “*ekklesia*,” which means, *a gathering of people, God’s people*. In English it is the word _____

Two rituals that help connect them to one another –

_____ pictured their close identity with one another and with Jesus

_____ looked back at Jesus’ sacrifice for our redemption and looked forward to his return.

_____ were Jewish people who were more connected to the rest of the Roman Empire than to Jerusalem.

As the Church continued to grow it also continued to change from predominately Jewish, to Hellenistic Jews and Gentiles, to predominately _____

The _____ shifted from Jerusalem to _____

“No man ... has shaped Christianity [or the world] more than Paul.”

Acts 16:6 – 10 – ⁶ Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had prevented them from preaching the word in the province of Asia at that time. ⁷ Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed north for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them to go there. ⁸ So instead, they went on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas.

⁹ *That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us!”*
¹⁰ *So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there.*

TAKE AWAYS

#1 – God’s Story isn’t just _____.

Acts 3: 20 – 21 – ²⁰ Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. ²¹ For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.

#2 – **YOU** _____ . . . you were not created to just float around like a feather on a breeze.

Acts 9: 6 – Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

Acts 9:15 – 16 – ¹⁵ But the Lord said, “Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ And I will show him how much he must suffer for my name’s sake.”

Jeremiah 22:11 – “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Philippians 1:6 – And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Ephesians 2:10 – For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

1 Peter 4:10 – “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, as good stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Philippians 4:8 – . . . whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Suggested reading, *Church History in Plain Language* by Bruce Shelly