

WELCOME!

Friday Men's Breakfast

December 11, 2020



Follow Me: Lessons from the Lives of the Disciples

#13 – “You Will Be My Witnesses.”
Acts 1:1-11

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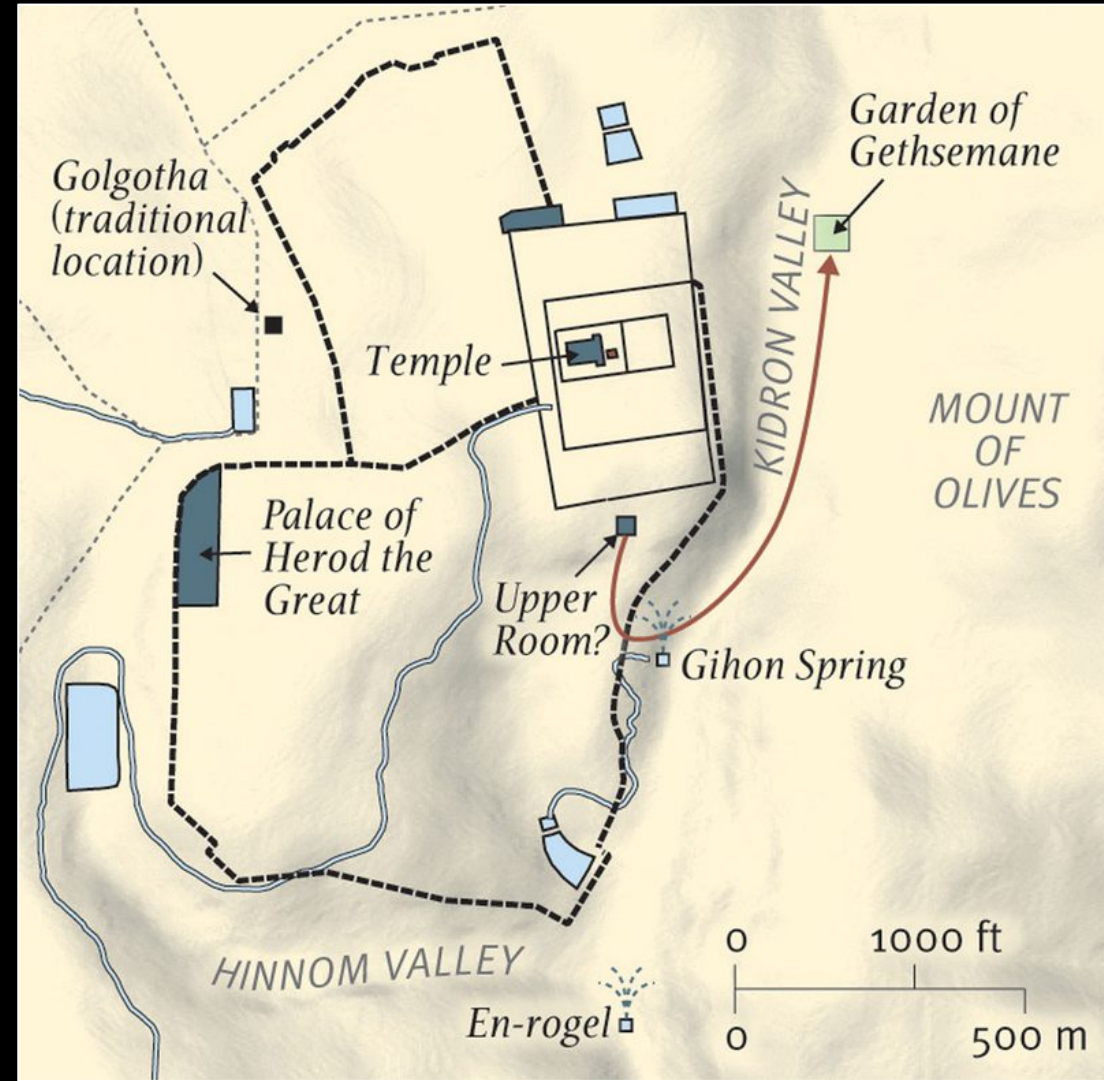
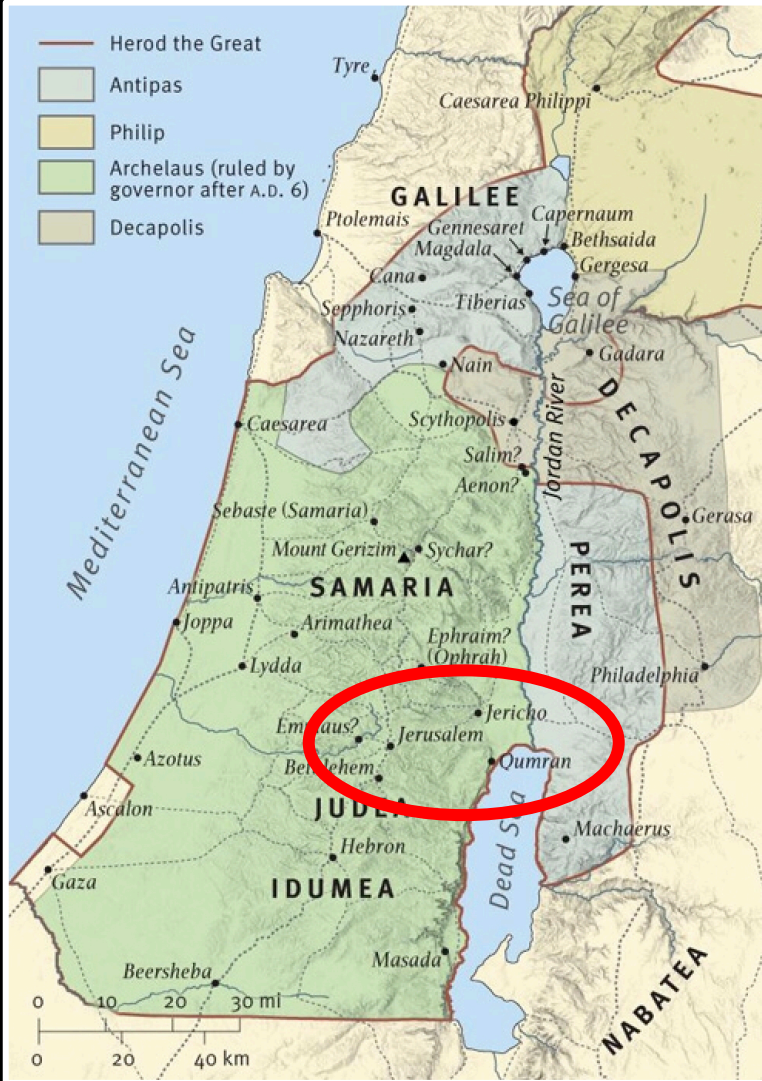
Thesis for our Semester

Jesus uses *ordinary* men to accomplish His *extraordinary* mission.

A “disciple” is called to ...

- 1)... *faith* in Jesus Christ.
- 2)... *follow* after Jesus Christ and obey Him.
- 3)... *fulfill* the mission of Jesus Christ and tell others about Him.
- 4)... *fellowship* in the family of Jesus Christ.

Context for Acts 1:1-11



Context for Acts 1:1-11

- Acts = Volume 2 (Luke = Volume 1)
- Luke = wrote 27% of the NT writer (Paul = 23%; John = 20%).
- Jesus has been crucified and raised and has been appearing to His disciples and others.
- Jesus' final lesson, before the Ascension.



“The Ascension”
by John Singleton Copley

Acts 1:1-11

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.” So when they had come together, they asked him, ...

Acts 1:1-11

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

Acts 1:1-11

1) Jesus' message is central to His extraordinary mission (1:1-3).

Luke 4:43

but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose."

Acts 1:1-11

1) Jesus' message is central to His extraordinary mission (1:1-3).

*He lived for you,
He died for you,
He lives again that you might too!*

Acts 1:1-11

2) The Holy Spirit is essential to Jesus' extraordinary mission (1:4-8).

John 14:26

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

Acts 1:1-11

2) The Holy Spirit is essential to Jesus' extraordinary mission (1:4-8).

John 15:26

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”

Acts 1:1-11

2) The Holy Spirit is essential to Jesus' extraordinary mission (1:4-8).

- **Commands through the Spirit (1:2)**
- **Baptism with the Spirit (1:5)**

Baptism with the Spirit

“The key to the apostles’ successful fulfillment of Jesus’ commission was their baptism with and consequent indwelling by the Holy Spirit. Without this divine enablement they would only have been able to follow Jesus’ example, but with it Jesus could literally continue to do His work and teach His words through them.”

- Tom Constable

Acts 1:1-11

2) The Holy Spirit is essential to Jesus' extraordinary mission (1:4-8).

- **Commands through the Spirit (1:2)**
- **Baptism with the Spirit (1:5)**
- **Power from the Spirit (1:8)**
 - **“witnesses” (Greek: *martures*, cf. *martyr*)**

“Witnesses” (Acts 1:8)

“They were now to be witnesses, and their definite work was to bear testimony to their Master; they were not to be theologians, or philosophers, or leaders, but witnesses. Whatever else they might become, everything was to be subordinate to the idea of personal testimony. It was to call attention to what they knew of Him and to deliver His message to mankind. This special class of people, namely, disciples who are also witnesses, is therefore very prominent in this book.”

- W. H. Griffith Thomas

Acts 1:8

3) Jesus will return to complete His extraordinary mission (1:9-11).

Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Acts 1:8

3) Jesus will return to complete His extraordinary mission (1:9-11).

Revelation 1:7

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

Acts 1:1-11

“The Christian church, according to Acts, is a missionary church that responds obediently to Jesus’ commission, acts on Jesus’ behalf in the extension of his ministry, focuses its proclamation of the kingdom of God in its witness to Jesus, is guided and empowered by the self-same Spirit that directed and supported Jesus’ ministry, and follows a program whose guidelines for outreach have been set by Jesus himself ... Luke’s point is that the missionary activity of the early church rested not only on Jesus’ mandate but also on his living presence in heaven and the sure promise of his return.”

- **Richard Longenecker**

Acts 1:1-11 - Application

**We are invited to join Jesus on His
extraordinary mission!**

Thesis for our Semester

Jesus uses *ordinary* men to accomplish His *extraordinary* mission.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What are your biggest hesitations in allowing God to use you to accomplish His mission?**
- 2) Which lessons from the lives of the disciples this fall have meant the most to you?**



Merry Christmas! See you in January

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