

7 Things Jesus left behind - Acts 1

If you have ever said a final goodbye to a child, a husband, a brother or a father, knowing that you would not see them for a long time, then you know how they can be sad goodbyes.

In Acts 1, Jesus says goodbye to his disciples. He had developed a friendship and an emotional bond with them for 3½ years. He was with them through good times and bad, and as a result Jesus changed their lives forever. They spent 40 incredible days with him after he rose from the dead and now in Acts chapter one, it was time to say goodbye.

Jesus is going to return home, but before leaving, tells his disciples: "There are some things I'm leaving behind. There are some things I want you to do. "Our focus today will be on what Jesus left behind after his ascension.

I. Jesus left behind an unfinished task.

Mat 28:19, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you every day until the end of the world. "

Jesus left behind a job to do. Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

If there is one person in this world who has not heard that message, our task is not yet finished. It is a task that Jesus gave to His church.

Mission fields cry out, "unfinished." Remote areas of every city and town cries, "unfinished." Wailing unsatisfied souls cry, "unfinished." The voices of our neighbors cry, "unfinished." Perhaps some of our loved ones are crying, "unfinished." Perhaps this soul is crying, "unfinished."

Until every person in the world has heard the Gospel of Christ in a way they can understand and respond to it, our task will forever remain *unfinished*.

(John 9: 4) "I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day. Night is coming, when no man can work" We would do well to follow the example of the Lord in the work of evangelization

II. Jesus left an unchanging message (vs. 3)

The last part of vs. 3 says: "Jesus spoke to his disciples of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

Mt 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

The gospel message of salvation is here to stay.

In Matthew 24:35, Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words shall not pass."

Whenever He gave the apostles the Holy Spirit, they were preaching the gospel message with power. The message was confirmed with miracles so miraculous that no one could challenge them.

In 14: 6, John said: "I saw another angel flying in mid heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to the inhabitants of earth - to every nation, kindred, tongue and people."

Paul said it best in Romans 1:16, "" I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ :. Because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes."

III. Jesus left unquestioned LOVE:

(Acts 1: 3) " To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God."

After Jesus rose from the dead, He showed much evidence. Luke records several of these. They touched Jesus and the disciples ate food with Him to prove it was not a spirit (Luke 24:36).

With incredible love Jesus cried to the Father: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Jesus died of grief and shame for a world that hated and rejected Him. That is unquestionable love.

4. Jesus left a UNMISTAKABLE PLAN (vs. 8)

"And you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth".

A witness has sworn to tell the truth of what they saw or experienced. This is what the disciples were told to do. "I Am my witness, tell others what you have experienced being with me. This is God's plan for the church and 2,000 years later, the planned has not changed.

Where are we going first? Jerusalem. This would mean our environment and would include our neighbors, our coworkers, friends and family. Where's the second place mentioned? Judea. This refers to cities, far from their homes. Where is the 3rd place? Samaria. That would be our nation and our country. Finally, Jesus says, "to the ends of the Earth - This would be our missions overseas. This is God's plan for evangelism.

5. Jesus left an absolute witness. Vs. 10.

(Acts 1:10) "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;"

When Jesus ascended, I can imagine the disciples, saying, "Wow, this is the best thing we've ever seen! I can imagine Thomas saying: "Now that I've seen, I'll never doubt you again!"

I can hear Peter saying. "Now that I've seen, I'll never deny you again!" If I was there, I would have said, "Wait! Return! I have one more question!!! "

Vs 10 says "they were looking into heaven."

I know that they did in a physical sense, but they also did this in a spiritual sense. Those early Christians lived their lives with an unwavering testimony that Jesus was the son of God and died for that testimony.

How we live is the greatest gospel we can preach. I think when we get excited about Christ and the church, we will change, and we will not be able to stop ourselves from telling others about what God has done for us.

6. Jesus left behind an unstoppable force vs. 8.

"But ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you"

(Luke 24:49) "Behold, I send upon you the promise of my Father upon you. But wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high."

(Acts 2: 4) "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit"

The church began with the 12 apostles to preach. Acts 2 shows that 3,000 souls responded to their message. Acts 4: 4, more than 5,000 people responded. In Acts 5:14, "And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of men and women were added to their number."

In verse 28, religious leaders tried to stop them with fear, "giving strict orders not to continue teaching in Jesus' name and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine..."

(Vs 29) "Peter and the other apostles answered and said, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

7. Jesus left behind a promise. Vs 11.

(Acts 1:11) The angels said, "This same Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven will come back in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

When you think about Jesus' return, are you awaiting it? Are you ready, if He came today?

Close: Until Jesus comes back, He left behind some things for us to do: He gave the message with the love to share it, the plan to do it, the witness (Bible) to uphold it, and the power to do it; with the promise of His return and a great reward that awaits His faithful ones.