



————— ❧ *Week One* ❧ —————

Original Message Date: April 26, 2020

Message Title: Two Thousand Years Ago Yesterday

This weeks memory challenge: Acts 1:8 *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Reading for next week: All of Acts chapter 1.

————— ❧ *Reflection and Discussion Notes* ❧ —————

Part 1: Read John 14:9-14

- What did Jesus say was the source of all He said and did?
- In verse 12, what do you think are the 'greater things' that Jesus said His disciples will continue to do?
- What does it mean to 'ask something in Jesus' name'?
- What is the connection between Jesus' source of living, and our source of living today?

Part 2: Acts Background and Context

- Who is the primary 'protagonist' in Acts- the one doing the 'acting'? Why is this such an important point?
- Regarding Acts as a history, Pastor Ethan asserted that Luke's occasional lack of detail speaks to the authenticity of the book, rather than detracts from it. Why would this be so?
- Why is it important to pay attention to the difference between 'descriptive' and 'prescriptive' teaching as we go through Acts?

Part 3: Read Acts 1:1-11

- In verses 1-3, Luke makes the strong point that Jesus was alive, and in fact was continuing His work through His disciples. Why is this so important to Christianity?
- Pastor Ethan pointed out that in verse 4, the first 'act', or command for the apostles, was to *wait*.
 - What were the apostles waiting for?
 - How can waiting on God be a profound act of obedience? Can you think of an example in your life?
 - Are there ways God is using these current days to teach you the importance of waiting with trust, patience, and peace? How?
- Verse 8 is the 'thesis' statement of the entire book of Acts.
 - What 'power' is Jesus referring to that He associates with the Holy Spirit? Write down your thoughts on this now, this will be a major theme as we go forward.
 - Is the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives today the same or different from the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the original apostles?
 - Put another way, how do we experience the power of the Holy Spirit today? Again, we will cover this topic in-depth.
- What is the chief/essential task of being a 'witness' of God to the world around us?
- Pastor Ethan stated that the hope of this world is not what *we can do*, but what only *God can do*. Do you agree? What is the difference?
- What is the big lesson for us from Jesus' ascension (and the words of the Angels) in verses 9-11?

What's your biggest takeaway from today's message?

What's your biggest question from today's message?