

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: “Mimic Me”
 - (Acts 9:31-42).

~ INTRO ~

NOW...

- As we resume our study of (Acts)...
 - Let me remind you of the big picture... in this book.

(Acts)

- Records about 30-years of the early church (thru snap-shot narratives)...
 - As the Holy Spirit births the church, nurtures the church...
 - And multiplies God's work on earth.

NOW... THE TWO PRIMARY CHARACTERS:

- Are Peter & Paul...
 - As they're led by the Holy Spirit in advancing the Gospel.

TODAY...

- The Church reads & studies the book of Acts...
 - To be stirred into a greater faith...
 - As we learn how to advance the Gospel...
 - Under the Holy Spirit's leading.

CAN I GIVE YOU “Good News” FOR THIS WEEK?

1. Women's group in Australia being fed weekly by this broadcast.
2. Widows in Pakistan (30-women) your supplying Bibles to them Tuesday.
3. A church in Africa is being sent 200 of your chairs on Thursday.
4. Asia is having Bibles translated / printed / & delivered because of you!

- YOUR GENEROSITY CREATES CAPACITY...
 - That reaches around the world.

5. Locally you're rehabbing this church to invite & serve this community.
 - All of this is spiritual fruit to your account **this week!**
 - As you lay up treasures in heaven.

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LET’S GO A LITTLE WIDER...

6. Israel... we delivered support to those impacted by the war (Jan. 24’).

IN June 2024... I’m taking another delegation of twenty more people...

- To stand with Israel *in their darkest hour!!!*
 - We’re providing Solidarity...
 - At the hospital
 - At the Jewish Agency
 - And possible thru more humanitarian aid.

POLITICALLY...

- Many American politicians are abandoning Israel...
 - But *your missional tourism* demonstrates to the everyday Jew...
 - God’s love is still with them!

ALL OF THIS IS FRUIT TO YOUR HEAVENLY ACCOUNT...

- As you faithfully contribute to the work of ministry.

ONE MORE...

7. We’re working **toward** helping fund...
- The first boys safe house in Colorado...
 - For those being sexually trafficked.

THE BOOK OF ACTS...

- Is a record from 1st Century Christianity...
 - On how the Holy Spirit worked in and thru the church.
- Today... the story continues thru the contribution of your life!

READ (vv.31-35) NLT

HERE’S A FEW THINGS WE CAN LEARN:

IDEA #1 – THE SCENE HAS CHANGED: (v.31) NLT

AT THIS POINT OF (Acts 9)...

- **We know**...
 - That Saul had become a Christian...
 - And is off the scene for about 7-years.

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- **We know...**
 - Persecution halts for a season & the area has peace.

AND FINALLY...

- **We now** see... Peter continue the ministry of Jesus...
 - As he nears the point where the Gospel goes to the Gentiles.

AGAIN... (v.31) NLT

NOTICE WHAT’S HAPPENING...

- The church became stronger.
 - The believers lived out their faith...
 - AND the Holy Spirit grew the church.

GANG... BACK ON (Sept. 17, 2023)...

- We left (Acts) to learn about genuine faith...
 - Thru the book of (1 John).

AS A FELLOWSHIP...

- We learned... *that a changed heart is seen in a changed life*.
 - As we **live out** Biblical truth.

SAUL WAS A CHANGED MAN...

- In both **Mission & Message**.

SO TOO... TRUE REPENTANCE...

- Is NOT just to turn from sin... ONLY to turn back to sin.
 - That’s not faith!!!

THE POINT OF REPENTANCE...

- Is to turn from sin ... as we come to Jesus...
 - AND our life continues to turn from sin... as we follow Jesus.

LET’S SEE THIS IN ACTION...

IDEA #2 – DO WHAT JESUS DID: (vv.32-35) NLT

SOMETIMES WE GET LOST IN BIBLE STUDY.

- But the simple reality is... just KNOW Jesus...

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➤ And do what He did!

NOTICE...

- Peter targets and talks with one guy...
 - Who had been stuck in bed for 8-years.

DO YOU WHAT TO KNOW HOW TO FIND SUCCESS...

- When you're inviting someone to Easter Service?
- Find the person who is the sickest OR has the greatest need...
 - And go pick them up & bring them to church.

THAT'S WHAT JESUS SOUGHT OUT...

- (Luke 5:31-32) MSG
 - (Luke 5:31-32) NLT

MINISTRY IS MESSY!

- Not with prideful resistant people who never move an inch.
 - But... messy lives being healed from sin!
 - And faith blossoming from true repentance.

SIDE NOTE:

- Flip to (John 5:5-8) NKJV Pool of Bethesda.
 - “*Do you want to be made well?*”
 - He got use to his condition
 - He made excuses (v.7)
 - But Jesus called him to the impossible (v.8)

(Rom. 5:8) NKJV

*Jesus speaks to the impossibility of our condition as though it does not exist!
And then, He requires us to trust Him at His word, and obey by faith.*

IDEA #3 – MOMENTUM IN MINISTRY: (vv.36-42) NKJV

AGAIN...

- Notice Peter only did what Jesus did.
 - In (Mark 5:35-43) Jairus' daughter died (Synagogue ruler (v.22)).
 - Jesus got to the house put the crowd out...
 - And called her back to life with Peter, James, & John.

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AS YOU Mimic Jesus...

- Momentum in your ministry will pick up.

TAKE A LOOK AT (v.35) & (v.42)

A LIFE OF FAITH...

- Always leads to greater opportunities.
- When you respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit...
 - God does the impossible thru you.

WE'RE...

- 15-days away from Easter...
 - Go find a sick person & invite them to church.

STAY AWAY FROM THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS...

- And those who have no interest in God.
 - It's a waste of your time.

~ IN CLOSING ~

(Ps. 72:18-19) NKJV