

Recap of 1/24/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 1:1-5):

1. The early church changed the world of its day without political power or clout. It grew and thrived despite intense persecution. When the church fulfills its mission (Acts 1:8) society is changed. The message of Acts is that Jesus' work continues through His disciple, empowered by the Holy Spirit up to and including today.

2. It is foundational to properly interpret the Book of Acts to understand that it is a transitional book and you cannot build doctrine on a transitional book. The only teachings in Acts that are absolute for the church are those which are confirmed elsewhere in Scripture. Some of the transitions it covers are the transition from Israel to the Church, from Jerusalem to the uttermost part of the earth, from Jewish ministry to Gentile ministry, from Peter to Paul, from law to grace.

-“Acts is a record of power in the midst of persecution, of life and health pouring from a living Christ into a sick society through the channel of obscure men and women very much like you and me.”  
(Stedman)

-“One hundred and twenty ordinary people hardly constitute an imposing army; but in a few days, they would make an impact that is being felt even today.” (Wiersbe)

-“The extraordinary thing about these men [the Apostles, Acts. 1:13] is that they were ordinary men chosen to do an extraordinary task.” (Hobbs)

2. Luke mentions the crucifixion, the resurrection and the ascension in Acts 1:1-3. He mentions that they had to be convinced about the resurrection. The resurrection was no plot, or conspiracy, or hallucination on their part. Luke references 8 proofs of the resurrection in Luke 24:1-12:

-The change to Sunday worship vs. 1

-The stone rolled away vs. 2

-The empty tomb vs. 3

-The significance of two Angels vs. 4

-Fearful to triumphant Disciples vv. 5-7

-The significance of the women as the first witnesses vs. 9

-The Disciples were not expecting the Resurrection vs. 11 & 12

-The grave clothes were left in orderly fashion vs. 12