

Discussion Questions

July 20, 2025



Acts 29 - The Church was Born for This

The sermon was broken up into 3 sections:

- Jesus' inauguration of His Kingdom
- The early church's building of His Kingdom by the power of the Spirit
- Our calling to continue that same mission today

Jesus' inauguration of His Kingdom

1. Read Luke 4:18-19 and the Lords' Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13.

How Does Jesus describe his Kingdom in these passages?

What does it look like practically for God's Kingdom to come to Earth as it is in heaven?

The early church's building of His Kingdom by the power of the Spirit

2. Read Acts 2:42-47.

What challenges you most about the early church described here?

Discuss how the early church was building the Kingdom of God.

Our calling to continue that same mission today

3. As you reflect on what Jesus said about His Kingdom and how the early church made living that out the centerpiece of their mission, discuss how well modern Christianity has done in carrying out Jesus' vision for the church.

What are we doing well? Where have we fallen short?

4. The sermon concluded with four ways we can write our chapter of Acts. How can you put these into practice?

Surrender daily to the King: James suggested praying the Lord's Prayer each morning as a "daily re-alignment." What is one practical way you can consciously "hand the pen back to the author" and surrender your plans to God's kingdom purposes this week?

Build Kingdom community: The early church was known for its deep, sacrificial community life. In what specific way can you or your small group better reflect this kingdom community? (e.g., sharing a meal, serving someone in need together, praying more intentionally for one another).

Be continually filled with the Holy Spirit: The Christian life is not meant to be lived on our own strength. Share a recent moment, big or small, where you recognized your need for the Holy Spirit's help. What is an area where you feel the Holy Spirit nudging you to be filled with His Spirit & step out of your comfort zones?

Proclaim His Kingdom in word & action: James asked, "Is my life pointing to the beauty of God & his kingdom?" What is one area of your life (e.g., your work ethic, your social media presence, how you handle conflict, how you show generosity) where you want to more intentionally proclaim the kingdom this week?

C.S. Lewis - The Last Battle

And for us this is the end of all the stories... But for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before.

Acts 1:1 (NLT)

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach

Overview of Today's Message

1. Jesus' vision of the Kingdom of God
2. How the early church continued that vision
3. Our calling to continue that same mission

Mark 1:15 (NLT)

"The time promised by God has come at last!" he announced. "The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!"

Luke 4:18–19 (NLT)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come."

Acts 10:38 (NLT)

And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

John 14:12 (NLT)

I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father...

John 14:16–17 (NLT)

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

Acts 1:6 (NLT)

"Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?"

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Dallas Willard

"The kingdom of God is the range of God's effective will, where what He wants done is done"

1. Jesus' vision of the Kingdom of God

2. How the early church continued that vision

Acts 2:42–47 (NLT)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity...

Acts 8:12 (NLT)

*But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the **Kingdom of God** and the name of Jesus Christ.*

Acts 19:8 (NLT)

*Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the **Kingdom of God**.*

Acts 20:25 (NLT)

*"And now I know that none of you to whom I have **preached the Kingdom** will ever see me again."*

Acts 28:30–31 (NLT)

*For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, boldly **proclaiming the Kingdom of God** and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him.*

3. Our calling is to continue that same mission

The church exists to continue Jesus' ministry of building His Kingdom by the power of His Spirit.

Would other say that my life proclaims Jesus & His Kingdom?

How do we build the Kingdom today?

1. We must surrender daily to the King
 - Prayer, Scripture, and Obedience
 - DAILY pray the Lord's Prayer.
2. Build community that reflects the King & His Kingdom
 - Invest in deep, accountable relationships with other believers
 - Share meals, resources and life together
 - Include the marginalized, widows, and the poor
3. Be continually filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - Ephesians 5:18 "Continually be being filled"
4. Proclaim His Kingdom in Word & Action
 - Sacrificial love
 - Fighting to right wrongs
 - Tell others about Jesus & His Kingdom