

5 Things Jesus Left The Church

Acts 1:1-11 NKJV

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit Promised

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷ And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus Ascends to Heaven

⁹ Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

I wish to share with you today - 5 Things Jesus Left The Church

INTRO: HUMOROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

*Perhaps you have heard about the congregation that ***decided to build a new church building***.

- A Building Committee was chosen and soon they began meeting regularly.
- After ***MANY meetings*** and much discussion, ***the Building Committee*** ***passed the following resolutions:***
 - We shall build a new church.
 - The new building is to be located on the site of the **OLD building**.
 - The material in ***the old building is to be used*** in the construction of the ***NEW building***.
 - We shall continue to use the **OLD building** until the ***NEW building is complete***.

****Change is difficult because we are creatures of habit.***

- **If you don't believe me, just consider the following...**
 - Nearly everybody **parks in the same place** in the parking lot outside.
 - Nearly everybody **sits in the same spot** in worship.
 - We rarely ***change the order of the service***, because we like the idea of knowing what to expect.
- **It's no different at home...**
 - You have **YOUR parking spot**, rarely does anyone dare park there.
 - You have **YOUR chair** or place you sit in your living room.
 - **Every morning** you go through the ***same routine***, whatever that routine may be.

*You see, we are creatures of habit and ***we don't do "CHANGE" very well.***

- Allow me to illustrate:
 - A new pastor was commenting to one of his members about the many years that he had been a member of the church.
 - The pastor said, ***"I'm sure you've seen a lot of changes in all your years."***
 - The man replied, ***"Yeah, and I've been against every one of them!"***

THE BOOK OF ACTS

*Acts is a book about what *Jesus began* to **do** and **teach** until *His ascension* and what the *believers* did **after Jesus ascended**.

*Acts is a book that tells us the Jewish Clock had stopped ticking and ***the dispensation of Grace had come to fruition*** as the Church was born.

Acts** is one of the most exciting books in the New Testament – ***it records the ascension of Jesus and ***the history of the Early Church***.

- As ***the ascended Christ***, Jesus is...
 - **The head** of the Church; and
 - **The help and the hope** of the Christian.

I want to share with you - ***Five Things Jesus Left the Church...***

BODY

FIRST: JESUS LEFT THE CHURCH AN UNFINISHED MISSION.

- **Three times in the Gospels**, and **once** in the Book of Acts, ***Jesus told us what to do.***

Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*” Amen.

Mark 16:15 NKJV

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Acts 1:8 NKJV

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus told us what to say.

- We are to witness by our WORDS – testimony of our lips.

Matthew 10:32 NKJV- Confess Christ Before Men

32 “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

- We are to witness **by our WORK** – consistency of our lives.
- We are to witness **by our WARMNESS** – challenge of our love.

Jesus also told us where to serve:

- **Jerusalem** – our local areas (our families, our work places, our city).
- **Judea** – our Parish.
- **Samaria** – our State.
- **Uttermost Part of the Earth** – Home and Foreign Missions.

Have you ever considered the TURTLE?

- **The only way a turtle can make progress and get anywhere is to stick his neck out.**
 - I wonder: would you be willing to stick your neck out for Jesus this week?

One elderly lady I read about was praying one day, and as she finished her prayer **she made this unusual request**:

- **“Lord, when you are through with this old soul on earth, let me come into heaven dragging tired!”**
 - I pray that some of your wonderful elders of this church have the same prayer request.
 - **You need to pray** that God will give you the health and ability to work faithfully for His kingdom, literally SPENDING your life for Him!
 - **Jesus left the Church an unfinished mission**:
 - **We are to share the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ!**

SECOND: JESUS LEFT THE CHURCH AN UNCHALLENGED MESSAGE

Acts 1:3 NKJV

³to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

- It is important to understand that the story of Jesus Christ has **six stages**:
 - **Stage 1** – The conquest was **predicted in Genesis 3:15**.
 - **Stage 2** – The conquest **began in the ministry of Jesus** in His earthly life.
 - **Stage 3** – The conquest was **achieved in the death of Jesus** on the Cross.
 - **Stage 4** – The conquest was **confirmed in the resurrection of Jesus** from the grave.
 - **Stage 5** – The conquest is being **extended today through the Church**.
 - **Stage 6** – The conquest **will be consummated by the return of Jesus Christ**.

- We are **presently in Stage 5** of this incredible story.
 - **The conquest of Jesus** is **being extended through the Church**.

- **The Church is telling the story of Jesus** around the world and thousands upon thousands are coming into the Kingdom of God as a result!

THIRD: JESUS LEFT THE CHURCH THE POWER TO ACOMPLISH THE MISSION AND SHARE THE MESSAGE.

- Through the Holy Spirit, He gives us the power of conviction.
 - The **Holy Ghost brings conviction** to the saved concerning the need for sharing the Good News of forgiveness of sins and salvation to the unsaved.
 - The **Holy Ghost also brings conviction** to those who are unsaved for the purpose of helping them realize **their lost condition and the need of salvation**.

- The Holy Spirit gives the power of **confrontation**.

- When we know we are going out **under the “authority of God”** we know that **we cannot fail!**

Our conviction about **the needs of the unsaved** encourages us **to be faithful** in **sharing the Gospel of Christ...**

- **His death, burial, and resurrection** and **how it is applied** to our lives today.

The Holy Spirit gives us the power of **compassion**, as well.

- Through the Holy Ghost we realize that **witnessing is not about us.....**
it’s about the lost!
 - Through **the compassion of the Holy Ghost** we are to tell others of **the saving grace** and **power of Christ**.
 - Remember, **people don’t care** how much you know until **they know how much you care!**

FOURTH: JESUS LEFT THE CHURCH AN UNSHAKEABLE TESTIMONY.

Jesus has left His Church the testimony of **a Living Word**.

- **The greatest testimony we have is, first of all, the witness of our lives; and if He has to, God will use the witness of our lips.**
 - **When your friends witness the difference in your life**, they will naturally ask about it, opening the door for **you to tell them what Christ has done** in your life.
 - Jesus uses **our WORKS and our WORDS** to win the lost.
 - **Your lifestyle changes speak volumes** to those who knew you before the Holy Ghost changed you.
 - **And the longer you live for the Lord, the louder your LIFE should speak** concerning **His love and grace!**

Matthew 5:16 NKJV

¹⁶ **Let your light so shine** before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Jesus has left the Church the testimony of **a written Word...**

- **The Bible is a Book of Revelation, Redemption, and Regulation!**

FIFTH: JESUS LEFT THE CHURCH AN UNCHANGING PROMISE.

Acts 1:11 NKJV

¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

- **Just as Jesus left, He shall return.**
 - **Jesus left bodily**, and He shall return bodily.
 - **Jesus left visibly**, and He shall return visibly.
 - **Jesus left in person**, and He shall return in person.
 - **Jesus left on a cloud**, and He will return on a cloud.
 - Jesus left **from the Mount of Olives**, and He shall return to the Mount of Olives!

- Yes friends, ***Jesus left His Church an unchanging promise***; and that is that ***He is coming again***, and this time **He will take His bride – the Church** – to be with Him in Heaven!
 - I don't know about you, but ***I want to be a part of that Bride that is raptured out of this old world...***
 - ***ushered into the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!***

CLOSE

5 THINGS JESUS LEFT THE CHURCH

- Jesus left the Church an **unfinished mission**.
- Jesus left the Church an **unchallenged message**.
- Jesus left the Church **the power to accomplish the mission** and **share the message**.
- Jesus left the Church **an unshakeable testimony**.
- Jesus left the Church **an unchanging promise**.

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