

# ***The Church that ACTS out!***

## ***The Church Comes Alive!***

***“When Someone Lets You Down”***

### **Listen Up**

- Ancestry.com...real people, real stories, real connection.
- Acts is the church’s Ancestry.com.
  - P45 and the real deal
  - Luke: “They” to “We” (Acts 16:11)
- We are Literally the “Body of Christ”
  - “Jesus Began to do and teach”
  - Holy Spirit works to Empower the work of the church, not do the work for the church.
- Acts is a book of real people, real story, that we are really connected to, and continuing the ministry of...

### **Dig into the Word (Acts 1:12-25)**

- The real pain of Betrayal experienced by all (2 Tim 4:20)
  - The pain of a ungodly mother
- Dealing with pain of betrayal begins with being in a community bathed in love and prayer. (Acts 1:12-15)
  - The obedience of the disciples
  - The power of not only praying, but praying with others of like mind.
  - The diversity of who was gathered together.
    - Disciples, Peter, and Mary...Oh my!
- Dealing with Pain means it must be dealt with and not swept under the rug. (Acts 1:16-17)
  - Wounds left unattended can lead us to:
    - Wounds that never heal
    - Embittered spirit
    - Loss of a sense of security and trust
    - Continued humiliation
  - Two types of Betrayal
    - Direct Betrayal
    - Indirect Betrayal
- Don’t minimize the betrayal, but move forward (Acts 1:21-22)
  - How were they able to move forward?
    - They did it together
    - Faith in Jesus, not Judas
    - They stayed deeply connected
- (For Discussing around table) They made a decision the right way (Acts 1:24-25)

- Set forth the right qualifications.
- The community came together to discuss and suggest answers led by the Spiritual Leader
- The leadership called upon the community to pray and seek God’s will.
  - More than qualifications...God’s decision because He alone knows the heart.
  - Casting lots was used prior to Pentecost, but not after. Now we really on the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Matthias chosen, but not heard from again. (Missionary to Ethiopia)

### **So What?**

- PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!
- We can’t do life alone. We need each other.
- What do we do when Others let us down?
  - Guard Your Heart (Prov 4:23)
  - Forgive the One Who Let You Down (Matt 6:14-15)
  - Trust Again (Prov 17:17)
  - Pull Out the Knife From Your Back and Place at the Foot of the Cross (Matt 16:24-25)
  - Keep Going Forward. (Phil 3:12-14)

### **Final Thought**

- What if the One who hurt you is your parent?

### **Discuss Around the Table**

- What stood out to you the most about today’s sermon? How would you summarize the message?
- What connects you to the church? What about the early church? Is their stories real? How does creeds like the “Apostle’s Creed” help us connect to our brothers and sisters from the past?
- When has there been a time when someone let you down in the church? How did you respond? Does it matter if the person is sorrowful or not? What is the difference between forgiveness and trusting that person again?
- How can we move forward in the church when a leader falls into a very public sin? Should a church publicly acknowledge a public sin of a leader or should it be simply not mentioned but dealt with internally?
- Looking at how the church came to the decision of the new disciple, how would you measure your decision making when it comes to important matters?
- If the church is the “Body of Christ” in this world, then what image does the world have of the “head” based on what they see in us?
- What is the difference in the Spirit empowering the work of the church and doing the work for the church? What is the difference between a church that is simply busy and a church that is busy in the Spirit?
- Why is Peter’s leadership significant in this? (Lk 22:31-32)
- Focus on the role of women in the early church. Why is this important then, and today?

