

INTER- RUPTING JESUS

"SPIRIT INTERRUPTIONS"

Acts 1-2 | Sermon #6 in the Lenten Series "Interrupting Jesus"

April 23, 2017

GATHERING

1. Can you name 2-3 of the most spiritually significant moments in your life? What made them so powerful. Were any of them surprising?
 2. Would you say that your spiritual journey has been like traveling down a long path with gradual ups and downs, or like traveling on a road with sharps lefts and rights you did not see coming?
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LOOKING AT THE TEXT

In this last study of our "Interrupting Jesus" series and we look at the book of Acts. Luke, who wrote both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, saw the two volumes as two parts to the same story. The Gospel records the activities of Jesus in the flesh while on the earth. Acts records the continuing work of Jesus, through the Holy Spirit. The book of Acts begins with Jesus telling the disciples how things will be "post-resurrection."

Read 1:1-11

1. What does Luke tell us about the gospel he wrote? Compare this to Luke 1:1-4.
2. What does he tell us about the weeks after the resurrection?
3. In verse 3-4 Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit. Why do you think he compares what they will experience to John's baptism?
4. What question do the disciples ask in verse 6? What do you think they mean by this?
5. Jesus does not answer their question and he changes the whole focus of the discussion in vs. 7-8. Who is going to be building the kingdom in the post resurrection era?

Read Acts 2:1-16

1. In this famous account of the coming of the Holy Spirit, how many interruptions are there?
2. What amazed the crowd when they saw and heard the disciples?

3. Most theologians see a connection between Acts 2 and Genesis 11, the Tower of Babel. If so, what is God saying through these tongues?

Read 2:16-36

1. In response to the questions of the crowd, Peter quotes Joel 2:28-32. How does Joel emphasize the Holy Spirit coming on everyone?
2. Peter connects the manifestation of the Spirit to the resurrection. What does he say about the crucifixion and God's response to that?
3. What is the conclusion to Peter's sermon in verse 36?

Read 2:37-47

The Holy Spirit interrupted the disciples, who then interrupted the people gathered in Jerusalem for the Pentecost holiday. Peter explains what is happening and concludes with verse 2:36. Now the people want to know what they should do.

1. How does Peter apply this interruption to the crowd? What does he want them to do?
2. How many responded?
3. How did the people change their lives after believing in Christ according to 2:42-27?

Application

1. Looking at this account of the beginning of the church it is clear that the Holy Spirit is going to continue to interrupt people. How do you think God wants to interrupt your life? Has he tried to get your attention lately?
2. Do you think God wants to use you to interrupt others, in what way?