



Easter Sunday

Acts 1:1-14

Summary

In the opening verses of the Acts of the Apostles, we get a quick recap of the Gospel story, as well as a recounting of how Christ was with the disciples following the resurrection for quite some time.

The reading focuses on the promise of the Holy Spirit, and that point is brought home by Christ's ascension. He leaves them, but in leaving he offers them a promise that they will not be alone. The followers of Christ, then and now, must open themselves up to that promise as they and we strive to live into the kingdom that we share in building.

Prayer

Risen Christ,
Guide us in those moments where we feel lost. When darkness seems to hide the way before us, send the Holy Spirit to show us the way. In all that we say, may we offer love and grace. In all that we do, may we be bearers of the kingdom to a world that longs for peace. We offer this and all our prayers in your strong name. AMEN

The Story Behind the Words

- ❖ What is the “first book” mentioned by the author here?
 - Who is the author?
- ❖ How long did the risen Christ stay among his followers before ascending?
- ❖ How does the book of the Acts of the Apostles connect with the Gospels and the letters that follow?
- ❖ Why was it important that the disciples wait in Jerusalem?
 - What is the promise they are waiting for?

The Characters

- ❖ Who is Theophilus?
 - What was their relationship with the author of the book of Acts?
 - Have we seen this name before? If so where?
- ❖ Who is missing from the list of disciples and why?
 - What significance, if any, is there in the author mentioning “certain women” among the disciples?
- ❖ What feelings do you think the disciples had as they witnessed Jesus ascending?
 - What feelings might you have had?
- ❖ Who do you think the two men in white robes were?

What is the Word saying to us?

- ❖ If after being raised Jesus returned to his disciples, why did he leave again?
 - What is the significance of his ascending to heaven?
 - Why was it important that the disciples witness that?
 - What is the significance of the disciples waiting and watching after the ascension?
- ❖ What would have been different if Jesus stayed with the disciples?
- ❖ How does the promise of the Holy Spirit here connect with what Jesus has previously said?

Where do we go from here?

- ❖ What do we share in common with the first century followers in the reading?
- ❖ What are we called to do in Christ's absence?
- ❖ What kind of encouragement do you feel you need in your faith life?
- ❖ How does the promise of the Holy Spirit inspire you in your efforts to live faithfully and share the Gospel?
 - Where do you see/feel the Holy Spirit at work in your life?