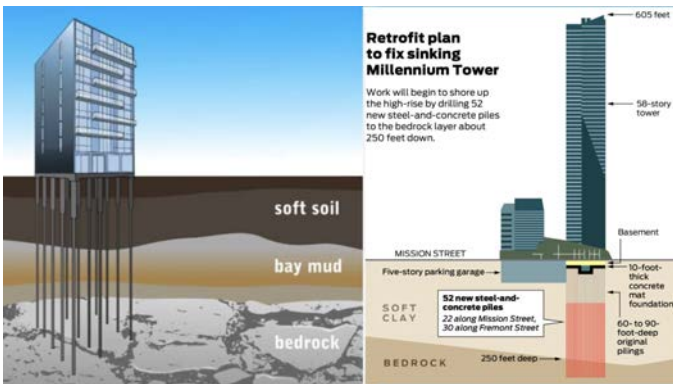




The Apostolic Foundation

Acts 1:12-26



The Foundational Ministry of the Apostles

Acts 1:12-26:
Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. ...

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ...

(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it"; and "Let another take his office.' ...

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. ...

And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

- Acts 1:12-26

The Apostolic Foundation

1. What Luke wants us to know about the Apostles

2. How this impacts the way we engage today
(Scripture, Church, Culture)

1) Luke wants us to know who they specifically are.
(verses 12-14)

Verses 12-14: Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

3 Questions to Ask:

- 1) Why does Luke mention them specifically?
 - a. The office is unique, unrepeatable, and authoritative.
 - b. There are no more capital "A" Apostles. Their teaching is final and normative.

3 Questions to Ask:

- 2) According to Acts, how many capital "A" Apostles are there?

3 Questions to Ask:

- 3) In what ways does this matter for us today?
 - a. Guardrails on false authority
 - b. Guardrails on respected authority
 - c. Guardrails on binding conscience

2) Luke wants us to know that Scripture undergirds their ministry and office. (verses 15-20)

Verses 15-20: In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ...

(Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it"; and "'Let another take his office.' (Psalm 69:25, Psalm 109:8)

3 Questions to Ask:

- 1) Some might ask, "Why did Judas need to be replaced?"
 - 2) Some back then may have wondered, "What if another 'Judas' comes up?"
 - 3) You may be asking, "Why is it important to know that Scripture undergirds the Apostolic ministry and office?"
- ...

Response:

The Apostles were not inventing the Christian movement. The "Church" was not their idea.

The Apostles recognized that they were standing within God's already revealed plan in the Scriptures. Thus, their authority and ministry are not self-made. It is rooted in Scripture and was now being recognized and affirmed ("It was necessary for Scripture to be fulfilled...").

Put it this way...

If Scripture is not the basis and foundation for the Apostolic authority, then their ministry and teaching rests on human opinion and authority. But if the Apostolic teaching and ministry are mentioned beforehand, planned for, affirmed, and fulfilled by Scripture, it rests on God's revelation and authority, not their own or ours!

Our culture says, "Create your own truth."

Christianity says, "Build your life on the truth of God's word. In this case, build your life on the truth of the Apostolic teaching of Scripture that itself is rooted, affirmed, and fulfilled by Scripture!"

3) Luke wants us to know that a prerequisite of being an Apostle is being an eyewitness to the risen Jesus. (verses 21-26)

Verses 21-26: (Peter says) So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." ...

And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Thoughts:

- 1) As eyewitnesses, the Apostles are not saying, "Here's what we think," but "Here's what we have seen and testify to you!"
- 2) Because they were eyewitnesses, it is crucial to understand that all they saw and taught about Jesus is historically grounded and true.

Tim Keller: "Don't believe Christianity because it's exciting and practical and relevant - believe it because it's true. Because if it's not true, in the end it won't be practical and relevant."

4) Luke wants us to know they have authority and power. (verses 24-26)

Verses 24-26: And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Apostles as a Shaliach: "Sent one" or "Emissary"

A shaliach was not just an authorized representative but one who embodied the sender in the following way:

- A shaliach was considered an extension of the sender's own legal identity: what the shaliach did, the sender did.
- "The one sent is as the one who sent him."
- Matthew 10: 40: "Whoever receives you receives me..."

Thoughts:

1. This helps understand the supernatural and miraculous displays we see in Acts. What we see in Jesus (displays of God's power) in the gospels, we see in the Apostles!
2. If the Apostles are speaking directly on behalf of Christ himself, to reject the apostolic teaching in the Scripture is to reject Christ.
3. One cannot say, "I follow Jesus, but not the bible," because Jesus speaks through the Apostles. The one sent is as the one who sent him.

The Apostolic Foundation

1. What Luke wants us to know about the Apostles

2. How this impacts the way we engage today (Scripture, Church, Culture)

1) What this means for us as we engage Scripture:

a. Submit your life to Scripture, not selectively but fully.

1) What this means for us as we engage Scripture:

- a. Submit your life to Scripture, not selectively but fully.
- b. Let God's word shape and form your identity, beliefs, decisions, and practice.

2) What this means for us as we engage the Church:

- a. Plant yourself in the church. Engage and commit.

Trevin Wax: *"The idea that belonging to a church is an optional add-on to one's Christian life is far from the biblical picture. The idea of an unchurched Christian wouldn't have made sense to the writers of the New Testament."*

(Quoting a pastor) *"When we call people to follow Jesus, we're calling them to become part of his people."*

2) What this means for us as we engage the Church:

- a. Plant yourself in the church. Engage and commit.
- b. Root yourself in relationships. Pursue deep belonging.

2) What this means for us as we engage the Church:

- a. Plant yourself in the church. Engage and commit.
- b. Root yourself in relationships. Pursue deep belonging.
- c. Ground yourself in truth. Be part of a church that takes doctrine seriously and thoughtfully and humbly.

3) What this means for us as we engage Culture:

- a. Truth not trends. We don't follow Jesus because it's cool, convenient, or accepted. We follow Jesus because He is the true, good, and beautiful.

3) What this means for us as we engage Culture:

a. Truth not trends. We don't follow Jesus because it's cool, convenient, or accepted. We follow Jesus because He is the true, good, and beautiful.

b. Culture over Scripture can look like accommodation or reaction.

3) What this means for us as we engage Culture:

a. Truth not trends. We don't follow Jesus because it's cool, convenient, or accepted. We follow Jesus because He is the true, good, and beautiful.

b. Culture over Scripture can look like accommodation or reaction.

c. Scripture over Culture means we evaluate culture through the authoritative lens of Scripture, and we have that lens of Scripture evaluate our hearts as we respond, engage, and react to culture.

Wrapping Up:

The Foundational Ministry of the Apostles

Burj Khalifa in Dubai:

- World's tallest building
- 2700+ ft tall, 163 floors
- Structural: Y Shape

Foundation:

- 12+ ft thick concrete slab
- 152 Concrete Piles (each about 5 ft thick), 150 ft deep
- Free standing structure designed for Dubai's loose soil



1 Corinthians 3:11:

"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."



ACTS *Part 1*
THE SPIRIT-EMPOWERED CHURCH

