

The Acts of the Non-Apostles

by Nancy Kuhlman

Lesson 5 – God’s Plan for Action

Review:

- Who has been empowered and instructed by God to carry out His work?
- What kind of identity among the early believers is becoming evident?

Read Isaiah 55:11 with Acts 1:8

1. What do these two verses tell you about God’s plan for His ongoing work on earth?

Read Acts 8:1; 9:31; 11:19-21

2. Under what conditions and circumstances is this work to occur?

Explore how we, living with the time pressures (and the “politically correct” mentality) of life in the 21st century, can realistically follow the example of the early Christians.

Today’s world is shrinking with advances in high speed travel and communication technology. How do we enfold this into God’s plan?

Read Acts 9:23-25; 29-30, 43; 10:23b; 11:12

3. What are some of the things people (non-Apostles) did in these verses?

How did these “background” activities relate to spreading the Gospel?

Into what sorts of comparable works might the Holy Spirit move us today?

4. All believers have spiritual gifts. Those gifts are given for the purpose of enabling the body of Christ to work together to accomplish God’s mission. What possible spiritual gifts might Simon the Tanner have had? (Acts 9:43)



How do we see these gifts operating in our church today?

How might these activities be extended toward spreading the Gospel to those outside the church?

5. In Acts 10:23b and 11:12, we see people accompanying Peter. How can we “go with” prominent proclaimers of the Gospel today?

Read Acts 13:1-3

7. What appear to be some regular practices of the Antioch church?

How might those practices relate to their ability to “hear” the Holy Spirit?

What do we do in our church that model these practices of the Antioch church?

Are there any we might consider expanding? Which, and how?

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