

MY NOTES

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

Week 2

ACTS

A Resurrection
& Ascension that is
Promised to Us

TODAY'S VERSES:

Acts 1:11
Acts 1:1-11
Acts 28:30-31
Luke 24:52
Luke 24:51
John 20:17
Luke 24
Matthew 28
1 Peter 1:3
Colossians 2:13-14
Romans 6:5
1 Corinthians
15:54-57

UPCOMING @ ELEMENT

All-church Business Meeting TODAY at 1p

Gospel Class: Starts NEXT SUNDAY at 9:30a 8 week class that goes through basic Doctrine in Christianity & what Element believes specifically.

Redemption Groups: Start February 19th. Study the Exodus Story and how it points to Jesus and applies specifically to your life. Learn more at ourelement.org/redemption





Welcome to week two of Acts. This series will take us through September as we learn about the founding of the early church and the original Apostles. The book of Acts is constantly re-centering us on Jesus as the focal point of all creation and our lives.

Is there anyone who drives you nuts?

Why? (Be careful if they are sitting next to you!)

Jesus instructs His disciples that they are to go to “Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” In Jesus’ time, Judea and Samaria hated each other; they were mortal enemies. If you were in Judea and had to go to an area on the other side of Samaria you wouldn’t walk through it, even though that was the shortest route to take, you would go around it (many miles on foot) because you didn’t want to get near “those people.”

Would you be willing to tell those you despise about Jesus?

Would you be willing to tell those you are sure wouldn’t understand about Jesus?

Why or why not?

Acts starts with Jesus ascending into Heaven, commanding His disciples that the Gospel is for all people regardless of how we feel about them. We are told that God loves them and wants us to go proclaim the goodness of who He is to the “thems.”

How do you think the disciples felt after Jesus Ascended?

When Jesus Ascended, it is not that He went to live in a different part of the universe, it is that NOW He has a different relationship to the universe. He took upon himself a body so He understands what it means to be human, He lived a perfect life, He died and rose so that

death was defeated...and then He ascended. If He existed now only in time and space, because He set up an earthly kingdom (like the disciples wanted and expected), then He would be stuck in one spot and at one time. We would only get to talk to Him one at a time. Instead He goes out of time and space, He is taken up into the Heaven (not the heavens) where He rules and reigns over human history.

The scriptures try to get us to understand that He is the one who is on the throne, which means that He can take everything He ever said or did and make it applicable to us now, today. Jesus is our shepherd, our substitute, our mediator, our sacrifice, and now He has a relationship to us where He can take the benefits of all that He did to everyone, everywhere.

What is the difference between ascension and resurrection?

Resurrection is about new birth. Ascension is the proving of all that Jesus had promised and the explosion of his power to make it happen. When the first Christians tried to describe resurrection they said Col 2:13-14 “having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt (our record of indebtedness) that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.” For them the resurrection was the canceling of debts, the worst oppressive kind of debt that weighs down your soul. Resurrection sets us free but then Ascension bestows confident power to take that message to the rest of the world. This is why people celebrated, because you used to have sacrifices, guilt, shame, the temple, animals, and blood, but now the debt is gone and nailed to the cross.

What type of fear do you have in sharing the gospel?

How does this fear affect how you live (or not live) in the strength of resurrection and ascension?

The hope of the ascension is that God is with us. Jesus has taken our debts, restored us to the Father, and has empowered us through the Spirit to reach the ends of the earth. The ascension does not leave us alone; it allows us to radically experience the power of Jesus.

What does living on mission look like to you?

Jesus commands us to “go to the ends of the earth,” not just sit idly by and wait. The gospel is for your friends, enemies, people you love, and people you don’t even know.