**Sermon Title: The Supernatural Exit**

**Sermon Text: Acts 1:1-11**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to recognize the supernatural exit of the God-Man!**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 scenes in the drama of the Supernatural Exit of Jesus Christ.**

**Introduction:** The Gospel of Luke reported “all that Jesus began to do and teach (1:1); and Luke’s second book, Acts carries the narrative forward, showing what Jesus continued to do and teach – through the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the Apostles – after His ascension to heaven. The book of Acts focuses on the Sovereignty of God over His elect and the founding, foundation, and formation of the New Testament church.

**I. The drama of Acts for confirmation. Vv.1-2**

**II. The drama of Acts for commissioning. Vv.3-8**

**III. The drama of Acts for completion. Vv.9-11**

**I. The drama of Acts for confirmation. Vv.1-2**

 The verb “began” implies that the second book (Acts) continues the account of Jesus “deeds and teaching” before His ascension to the Father’s right hand and the sending of the Holy Spirit to empower the disciples of all time for evangelism, missions, and discipleship.

 Luke 24:50-52 locates the ascension of Jesus Christ near Bethany, on the east side of the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem.

 **Luke 24:50-52** And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. **51** Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. **52** And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

 A. Acts confirms Jesus final **deeds**. V.1a

 B. Acts confirms Jesus final **teachings**. V.1b

 C. Acts confirms Jesus **exit**. V.2a

 D. Acts confirms Jesus **instructions**. V.2b

 After His resurrection, Jesus communicated to His apostles and disciples.

 1. The **reality** of His resurrection.

 **John 20:21** So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

 2. The **truth** of His calling as Messiah.

 **Luke 24:44-49** Then He said to them, "These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me." **45** And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. **46** Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise1 from the dead the third day, **47** "and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48** "And you are witnesses of these things. **49** "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalemuntil you are endued with power from on high."

 3. The **blessings** of the Holy Spirit.

 **John 20:22-23** And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained."

 4. The reality of His physical resurrection body.

 **Luke 24:37-43** But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. **38** And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." **40** When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. **41** But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" **42** So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. **43** And He took *it* and ate in their presence.

**II. The drama of Acts for commissioning. Vv.3-8**

 A. The appearances of a **crucified** man. V.3

 Christ’s resurrection appearances recorded in **Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24;**

 **John 20:21; 1 Corinthians 15:5-7** were important as an unmistakable and unshakable confirmation of Christ’s supernatural personhood after His suffering and work.

 **1 Corinthians 15:5-7** and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. **6** After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. **7** After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.

 It was important for Jesus resurrection to be visibly seen by the disciples, preparing them to be witnesses to His resurrection.

 (**v.22; 2:32; 3:15; Luke 1:2**)

 B. The appearance of the **Commander – Chief**. V.4

 1. Wait in Jerusalem. V.4a

 2. Wait for the promise of the Father. V.4b

 The Holy Spirit is the gift of the Father as promised in the Old Testament

 **Isaiah 32:15** Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, And the fruitful field is counted as a forest.

 **Isaiah 44:13** The craftsman stretches out *his* rule, He marks one out with chalk; He fashions it with a plane, He marks it out with the compass, And makes it like the figure of a man, According to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house.

 **Joel 2:28-29** "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. **29** And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

 and the gift of Jesus the Son.

 **John 14:15-17** "If you love Me, keepMy commandments. **16** "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- **17** "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

 **John 14:26** "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

 **John 15:26** "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

 **Luke 24:49** "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

 3. Wait for the **New** Baptism. V.5a

 John’s water baptism of redemption points forward to Messianic baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire. (**Mark 1:4; Luke 3:16**)

 4. The wait will be for a few days. V.5b

 C. The appearance **misunderstood**. V.6-8

 1. Focused on the **earthly** result. V.6

 2. Focus on the **heavenly** agenda. V.7

 3. Focus on the **church’s** mission. V.8

 a. The empowering presence is to be the Holy Spirit, not Jesus Himself.

 b. The growth of the church would come about through the witness of the disciples.

 c. The result of this witness will be measurable, geographical growth.

**III. The drama of Acts for completion. Vv.9-11**

 (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2; Philippians 2:5-11**)