



Confidence boost

Last Sunday, we kicked off our series in the book of Acts, noticing that it is the 'the Acts of Jesus and the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father' (and not so much the Acts of the Apostles!)

We were reminded that the early church were 'hopelessly' weak and yet also unstoppable, because the proofs, the plan and the power all belonged to God and not to them. This week the themes of confidence and commitment continue, as we move into the second half of chapter 1.

Start with prayer and then read all of Acts chapter 1 with this question in mind:

What do v12 - 26 add to the story? (Why not move straight from the promise of the Holy Spirit and the Ascension into Pentecost?)

Look back at v2 - what might the significance of this verse be?

How does this add to the theme of confidence that the book opens with?

What are the essential criteria for this new apostle to replace Judas? What seems to be the emphasis here? (cf verse 8)

How might this link to the 'convincing proofs' mentioned in v3?

There is something specific here about the apostolic witness of those who knew Jesus, heard all of his teaching and then saw him alive again after the resurrection. We aren't in this category, but our witness is based on theirs. Our witness is grounded in the teaching of the apostles and we can form 'a link in the chain'.

Maybe spend some time in prayer giving thanks for those who faithfully passed on apostolic teaching about Jesus to you.

Pray for opportunities to play a part in this yourself.

