**The Mission of Jesus Continued**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 40: Acts

McDonald Bible Methodist

Pastor Joey Ratcliff

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**SERMON NOTES**

1. **Jesus Empowers His Church**

*God’s presence filled His people, creating a body wherein Jesus’ mission could be realized.*

* 1. The source: The \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:8; 2:4)
  2. The purpose: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-advancement (2:41)
  3. The outcome: The Church is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:42-47; 3:7-8; 4:32-37; 5:12-16; 8:5-8, etc.)

*The Church of Jesus must receive the Holy Spirit*

*from Jesus to accomplish the mission of Jesus!*

1. **The Church Faces Adversity**
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ opposition (4:1-7; 5:17, 40; 19:28-29; 21:33)
   2. Threat of corruption (5:1-6; 8:18-19; 19:13-15)

*The Church will face adversity as it faithfully proclaims the gospel.*

* 1. Overwhelmed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (6:1-2)
  2. Persecution (6:8-7:60; 8:1-3; 12:2; 16: 20-24; 23:12)
  3. Self-imposed, Gospel-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ restrictions (10:13-14; 11:2-3; 15:1)
  4. Rejection by jealous Jews (13:45; 14:2; 17:13)

1. **The Spirit Turns Adversity to Success**

*Saul’s conversion demonstrates God’s willingness to sovereignly act for the good of His mission.*

* 1. Opposition leads to God-reliance and boldness (4:19, 23-31; 5:40-42; 12:12; 21:4-22:21)
  2. Possible corruption instead leads to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (5:11; 8:20-24; 19:17)
  3. Growth leads to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (6:3-6)
  4. Persecution leads to deliverance and expansion (8:4, 26-40; 11:19; 16:25-31; 23:31; **28:23, 30-31**)
  5. Restrictions are transformed to opportunities (11:18-19; 15:28-29)
  6. Jewish rejection leads to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mission (13:48-49; 14:27; 18:5-6)

***Nothing can stop the Spirit-empowered Church on mission!***

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

1. The traditional name for Acts is “The Acts of the Apostles,” but scholars now refer to it as “The Acts of Jesus through the Spirit.” Which name do you think is more appropriate? Why?
2. Review the types of adversity the early church faced. Which ones are potentially most harmful? Which threats does the church face today?
3. Is a church more or less likely to face adversity when it is Spirit-filled and on mission? Why?
4. Review the ways the Spirit turned adversity into success. Do you see any patterns that can be beneficial for us today? Discuss
5. Read Acts 1:8. The result of Paul’s arrest was the situation in 28:30-31. How did the Spirit use Paul’s adversity to accomplish Jesus’ promise?
6. What are some of the challenges our church faces today? How does the message of Acts give us perspective for these challenges?

**Prayer from Acts**

“Jesus, I thank you for entrusting us with your mission on earth. Please fill us with your Spirit, focus us on your mission, and prove yourself again through us as we follow in obedience.

**Answers:** Holy Spirit, **Gospel,** born, **External,** leaders, **inhibiting**, holiness, **organization,** Gentile