

INTRO

- What's your favourite story, movie or novel? Why?

The story of Jesus does not end with Jesus. It continues in the lives of those who believe in and follow him. The book of Acts continues his life and mission through his Spirit and his Church.

READ

Acts 28:16-31

REFLECT & RESPOND

Luke ends Acts rather abruptly, but under divine direction, it is left open-ended to show that the story continues. We are invited into this story today. It is an unstoppable story.

An Unstoppable Story of God's Mission

Twice in the passage, Paul's message is about the Kingdom of God and Jesus (v23,31). For Paul, Jesus was the culmination of Israel's hope for a Messiah to restore God's rule (or kingdom) over creation. Keeping Jesus and the kingdom together in the gospel message is critical today so that our gospel isn't just focused on personal salvation and heavenly assurance; the kingdom reminds us that God's redemptive purposes are for all creation and all of life, and he calls a people (the church) to be part of that.

Qu: read Mk 1:14-15. How is Jesus connected to the good news of the kingdom? What should our response be to the good news of Jesus and his kingdom?

An Unstoppable Story of Divine-Human Partnership

We see the most unfavourable circumstances against Paul and the early church repeatedly. Yet God turns opposition into opportunity repeatedly, and Paul jumps on the opportunity to extend the gospel invitation to all who will hear.

Qu: in what way/s does this encourage you when you think about the challenges and circumstances of your life? How can we be attentive to the opportunities God orchestrates through these times?

An Unstoppable Story of Faithful, Bold Witness

What comes to mind when you hear the word 'bold'? For some, it means loud and brash or a type of personality. Bold means candid (no hiding the truth), clear and confident (no fear of consequences). Acts tells the stories of the apostles, but for every act of their faithful bold witness, there are hundreds of untold acts of women and men, faithfully and boldly witnessing to this Story of God's mission. Case in point: Christianity was already growing in Rome long before Paul arrived!

In some sense, we are currently authoring Acts 29 until Christ returns. We continue the mission and message of Jesus and his kingdom through the power of his Holy Spirit. After all, this mission and story are unstoppable.

Qu: what is one major takeaway for you from the Book of Acts? How can you incorporate it into your life?

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for boldness in this unstoppable story and for opportunities to share it with others.