

ACTS

CHAPTER 2

The New Normal

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Acts 1:7-8 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you (pl) will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you (pl) will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

1. Power and indwelling of the Holy Spirit
2. Message of redemption entrusted to people- Christ's church
3. The complete message of the Gospel
4. The dynamic of power, proclamation and persecution
5. The new family of God- the church

The Vincent said...

God saves people through People.

People need to see or hear:

1. Power of God
2. an invitation and an accusation
3. You

“You are wrong about Jesus.”

#2 leads to 2 questions:

1. What happens when you tell someone they are wrong about Jesus?
2. What is being right about Jesus? What is the truth of the message of redemption?

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3 Responses to a faithful accusation:

   	   
Acceptance <small>They'll go on talking to me & I'll keep my head down.</small>	Rejection <small>Any 100% wrong & I don't believe I can't defend myself.</small>
	Attack <small>You're dangerous and I'm going to stop you.</small>



"It's my fault"

Lightbulb you're in an abusive relationship: everything is always your fault by default.

Your problem: You have a messiah complex and don't believe in the freedom and responsibility of the human will.



1. Attack Accompanies Accusation.

Deep Christian faith will always bring persecution.

2 Timothy 3:10-13
 You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, 11 persecutions, sufferings-- what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. 12 In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

It's not *constant*, but it's *consistent*.

In Acts:

Ch 2-4: arrested and jailed
 Result: talked to openly. Let go

Ch 5: healing/Persecution
 Result: Flogged and released

Ch 7: Stephen
 Result: Stephen Stoned to death
 Regional Persecution begins
 S/Paul hunting Christians all the way to Syria

Rigidity and Purpose

Persecution is a privilege.
 It's a sign of a true Christian.
 It's a sign of a true Christian.

Yet God uses the great evil of persecution

Persecution

Part of the messiahhood

John 15:20

Remember the words I spoke to you: No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.

You don't know how to love and you've loved your enemy.



No, no, no. I'm not insulting you.
I'm describing you.



3 Responses to a faithful accusation:

Prov 27:6 "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but
deceitful are the kisses of an enemy."



Acceptance

Thank you for helping me see I
was wrong about Jesus!

Rejection

No, YOU'RE wrong about Jesus!
or
I don't really care.
or
I don't find that persuasive

Attack

You're dangerous and
I'm going to stop you.



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THE PARABLE



OF THE SOWER



OR THE PARABLE OF THE FOUR TYPES OF SOIL

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Result: talked to sternly, Let go**

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Ch 7- Stephen

Result:

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Persecution

Part of the new Normal

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Persecution is a terrible
injustice and incurs
enormous damning guilt



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evil of persecution

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Arabian Peninsula

- ★ Riyadh National capital
- Jeddah
- Mecca
- Ad Dammam


International boundary
 National capital
 Relative size is the size of the lettering.





**Yet God uses the great
evil of persecution**





Luke 14:28-33 "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple.

Measure:

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What are you willing/glad to endure that you don't have to and that "isn't your fault"?

Counting the cost of persecution counts the cost of everything else with it.

Luke 9:23-25 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self?"

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So what is it to be right about Jesus?

Message
What are you struggling to understand?
How can we help you understand it better?
Let us know!

Evangelical Language:

"Have you accepted Jesus
as your Savior and Lord?"

Example Context: Track 17

Acts 2:38 "Therefore each of you must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
Acts 16:31 "They said to him, 'What must we do to be saved?' He replied, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, along with your household.'"

Primary Significance:

Acts 2:38 "Therefore each of you must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
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Misio Dei

missio dei

2. Jesus is the risen redeemer and king.

A chiche, humdrum and perfect title.

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as your Savior and Lord?"

Examples from Acts "Book 1":

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Acts 5:30-32 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead-- whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

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1. Repentance and faith (to be baptized with heart in God) is offered
2. Forgiveness in his name
3. The Holy Spirit
4. Blessing - Times of refreshing
5. Ultimately: Restoration of all things (5:21)



Implications: A thousand things

Luke 24:46-49 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:19-21 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you-- even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Primary Significance:

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2. Forgiveness in his name
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5. Ultimately: Restoration of all things. (3:21)



Implications: A thousand things

BAPTISMS

A photograph of two men on a stage in front of a grey stone wall. The man on the left is clapping, and the man on the right is speaking into a microphone. The word 'BAPTISMS' is overlaid in large yellow letters across the top of the image.

April
5

SIGN UP AT [HIGHPOINTCHURCH.ORG/BAPTISM](https://highpointchurch.org/baptism)

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Missio Dei



Missio Ekklesia

Ambassadors aren't armies

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