



# “Unfinished Business”

Acts 1:1-11

## LISTEN

*Record your insights and observations from this week’s sermon:*

## SHARE

How have you seen God at work this week? Give a specific example.

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## REFLECT

a) In Acts 1:1-11, Luke reports the things that Jesus did between his death and ascension. What are they?

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b) What does Jesus promise in Acts 1:1-11? What does he command?

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c) In Acts 1:1, Luke says that in his “former book” (the gospel of Luke) he reported what “Jesus began to do and

teach.” What does this imply about his second work, the book of Acts? Why is this important?

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d) How do you think the disciples felt about Jesus’ words in vss. 4-8? What do you think they would have been curious about?

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**APPLY**

a) How do Jesus’ commands and promises from this passage apply to you? How do they apply to our church?

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b) Read the quote by Dennis E. Johnson on the bottom of the next page. If someone were to examine your life, is there a chance he or she would consider you a practical deist? Why or why not?

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c) What would it look like if you lived with the expectation that God is at work in your life and the world around you everyday?

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d) How could you become more open to see the ways that God is at work this week?

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" . . . practical deism<sup>1</sup> is alive and well today, even in churches that take their stand on the Bible . . . Would we say this out loud? Never! But our meager prayer lives, our anxiety, our dependence on novel techniques in evangelism, our hope in technology to solve spiritual problems, our doubt that loving discipline can restore wandering brothers or sisters to repentance and reconciliation - all these testify to our unspoken assumption that God's *real* action is in the past and in the future, but not in the present. We act as though Jesus wound up the church and then *flung us out on our own*. . . ."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Deism is the philosophy that holds God created the world and wound everything up like a clock, then he retreated from it to let it work itself out.

<sup>2</sup> Dennis E. Johnson, *The Message of Acts in the History of Redemption* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1997), 17 (emphasis his).