Sermon Date: August 4, 2013 An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles - Acts 1:6-26

- 1. In Acts 1:4, the apostles were told by Jesus not to leave Jerusalem, but to *wait* for what the Father promised.
 - a. Has there been a time in your life when you had to wait for God to tell you what to do? A time when you needed to wait for an answer?
 - b. What did that look like?
 - c. Was there value in the waiting?
 - d. How did you know when He gave you an answer?
- 2. What do you think the apostles were expecting to happen when they asked Jesus "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6) How was it different than what they expected?
- 3. In Acts 1:8 Jesus told the apostles "*you shall receive* power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and *you shall be* My witnesses...even to the remotest part of the earth." Doug taught us that this was *not a command, but a promise*. How can this one word change our perspective about being a witness for Christ?

CONNECTING THE DOTS:

Notice the connection between God breathing the breath of physical life into the first man with God the Son breathing new life into them/us.

- Genesis 2:7 "Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."
- John 20:21-22 "Jesus therefore said to them again, 'Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"
 - God breathed life into Adam.
 - Adam's sin brought about death.
 - Jesus' death brought about new life.
 - Jesus breathed that new life into us.
 - O **Read Romans 5:12-21**

- 4. Picture yourself as if you had been at Jesus' ascension to heaven (Acts 1:9-11). How do you react? Describe what you might think, feel, hear, and see.
- 5. In Acts 1:14, the apostles and others devoted themselves to prayer.
 - a. Comment on why their prayers might have been so intense at this time.
 - b. Think about and comment on a time when you have been driven to a time of deep, desperate, intense prayer.
 - c. How does the urgent need for prayer impact your relationship with Jesus today?
- 6. Doug said, "Our greatest role is to wait for God's Spirit every day. We ARE clothed with power (aka dynamite) from High. We wait for His prodding, and mystically through His Spirit we reflect God to a broken world."

***What would it look like if you lived your life defined NOT by mistakes or unfilled dreams, but rather as part of His story for you? Challenge: right now, stop, close your eyes and think of yourself as part of His grander story, defined by Him. How would that change your view of yourself and your world?