



Sons of Saint Joseph tm

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SOSJ Discipleship 5: Spreading the Word Saturday, November 16, 2024

ACTS 1: 1-12

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." When they had gathered together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away.

Questions

1. As the Apostles spread God's word, they encountered incredible success but also intense suffering; cost but reward. What are the risks that I have been hesitant about taking? Be honest!! Where have I taken risks and been glad I did? What risk intimidated me into avoiding defending the faith?
2. Talking about Christ is not easy in the secular world. Do we find ourselves like the apostles in this passage, watching Christ but waiting for someone else to take the lead when the faith needs to be discussed or defended?
3. Religious formation of children is central to bringing God's grace to the home. What has been the family atmosphere for instilling the faith in children beyond either CCD or Catholic school? What kind of traditions are there for regular family prayer? What can I do for adult children now?
4. John Paul II called for a New Evangelization, that only Christ is the "way, the truth and the life" to the Father. How can we prudently but assertively play a role in the need for more Christian fervor and conversion? How can I help teach the world Catholic morality when it (the world) is so enraged by Catholic morality?