

~~Acts 1: 6-8, 12-14~~

Text. Lk. 24: 47

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SUBJECT: We Begin
The Fifteenth Year

D. 10/58

(GP)

Acts 1:6-8, 12-14; Th. 28:47 *"beginning at Jerusalem"*

WE BEGIN THE FIFTEENTH YEAR

Jesus took leave of the eleven apostles, entrusted to them a superhuman task. ... the noble world.
to begin at Jerusalem. Not far away. Near by. See it from Olivet where standing. There ... →

These terrible odds against them. In that city the Hellenists of Jesus ready to annihilate any one who dared to mention the name of the Nazarene. If they were lucky enough to escape these murderers, what had they to fear? a crucifixion memorial. to the Jews a stumbling block, to the Greeks foolishness. Look! beyond, beyond, westward, toward imperial Rome, center of world government, power, culture, the outlook no brighter. Almost is easy to send out these unlettered Galileans, common laborers, to win that mighty empire for Christ. But they did it - "beginning at Jerusalem!"

Today, no less difficult.
- Pan-Islamic nationalism, anti-X², Asiatic fanaticism.
- Hindic nationalism, anti-X². Hindic bitterness.
- Even present materialism - denying by word a by and spiritual reality.
- World-wide, conquering communism.
(a) Poem, "Listen, Christ..."

But Christ the Lord knew of these difficulties, foes. He equipped his disciples for this super-human, missionary task in a two-fold manner:

① The Messianic gift, the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, all the power of heaven placed at their disposal.

② Prayer: the channel through which heaven's gifts are bestowed.

The lines of transmission to the great power plant
The mighty water mains to the vast reservoir
The open hands, the open hearts, lifted up to be filled, imbued, inspired.

The encouragement of our Lord: Matt 17:20
18:19

Th. 11:9

This vast, world-wide X^m enterprise - overwhelmed
by it; drowned in it; swept before it. How seize upon it,
go about it, laid hold upon it? Jesus gave the
outline: "beginning at Jerusalem." His will now begin
at home, here in Dallas, our people. The gospel preached,
souls won, revival here. Sending the overflow of love.
Reaching out to the uttermost parts of the earth, from here.
These plans, statistics, in the budget from here.

1. The enlargement of our work in this sacred place.
We have just begun. Learning how.
Our teaching ministries - training ministries - visitation . . .
will take longer than I had supposed - but a great, tremendous
work not done in a day. Planning, preparing

2. The strengthening, reenergizing of our city mission program.
a. the headline - "illiterates." Africa? Dallas!
b. the blessedness of this ministry to the poor.
c. (a) Church members, "the worthy."

Looking to God, depending upon God, to help us.

1. For workers. Mt. 9: 37, 38

- of our Good Shepherd Dept. - the only limit, no plan ourselves. - think of it; willing, wanting - just for us to do it.
- of our Training Union. young Cantrell - "no limit to the number of young people reachable; if only leaders, symposium."
- of soulwinning, visitations. Somebody really interested.
- of our teaching ministry. Teachers respectful? slothful?

2. For power. Acts 1: 8, 14

The machinery of today's organized church. Too much? Depends upon the power to run it.
of the old organ in the church. Women jump with her feet, play...
= then a larger organ, usually a little boy jump the bellows
= now the great organ. Too much? Depends upon the power it is attached to. A woman's feet: a little boy's back: but the great machinery at the power plant. The fireman as large as desired.

There is no substitute for the waiting upon God
Senses, talent no substitute for it. ^{loosely note this.}
Methods, gimmicks, programs "..."
are requisite to all the rest of our work, that waiting upon God.
the difference between the energy of the flesh and the power of the Spirit.
the work of man and the work of God.

By prayer, couple can train to heaven's power engine.
of the beautiful Paddy car on the F. & P. But an engine back up, brokenness couple...

3. For souls John 15: 7, 8

Our meetings, services, classes. So little power...
fruit...

Satan laughs, heaven weeps.

"Sounding brass, sounding trumpet"

Power to win souls. power with God - with men.
of Wesley, Moody, same texts, same services, but more power.
of last Wed. evng, c. 90 p. Bd. elected many of
wives, steady in a just semi. week. One: "O! that a
right like that, converted..." Have had,
can have.

YOU MAY WONDER WHY

Writings of Langston Hughes have been included in recommended reading lists from the headquarters of some church denominations.

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THE DAILY PEOPLE'S WORLD - January 20, 1950 (page 2, Section 2) published Langston Hughes' BALLAD OF LENIN. Excerpts follow.

"Comrade Lenin of Russia
High in the marble tomb,
Move over, Comrade Lenin,
And give me room.

"I am Ivan, the peasant,
Boots all muddy with soil
I fought with you, Comrade Lenin,
Now I have finished my toil

"I am Chico, the Negro,
Cutting cane in the sun.
I lived for you, Comrade Lenin,
Now my work is done.

"I am Chang from the foundries
On strike in the streets of Shanghai
For the sake of the Revolution
I fight, I starve, I die.

"Comrade Lenin of Russia
Rises in the Marble tomb
On guard with the fighters forever-
The world is our room!

The following poem of Langston Hughes was produced in sworn testimony before the Special Committee on Un-American Activities on December 9, 1938 (Volume 4, page 3008)

"Put one more S in the U. S. A.
To make it Soviet.
The U. S. A. when we take control
Will be U. S. S. A. then."

"Good Morning, Revolution:
You're the very best friend
I ever had.
We gonna' pal around together from now on!"

(over)

The following poem of Langston Hughes was produced in sworn testimony before the Special Committee on Un-American Activities (Volume 2, page 1366).

Listen, Christ,
You did alright in your day, I reckon-
But that day's gone now.
They ghosted you up a swell story, too,
Called it Bible-
But it's dead now
The popes and the preachers've
Made too much money from it.
Kings, generals, robbers, and killers-
Even to the Tzar and the Cossacks.
Even to Rockefeller's church.
Even to the Saturday Evening Post.
You ain't no good no more;
They've pawned you
Till you've done wore out.
Goodbye,
Christ Jesus, Lord, God Jehovah,
Beat it on away from here now.
Make way for a new guy with no religion at all-
A real guy named
Marx Communist, Lenin Peasant, Stalin Worker, ME-
I said ME!
Go ahead on now,
You're getting in the way of things, Lord.
And please take Saint Ghandi with you when you go
And Saint Pope Pius
And Saint Aimee McPherson,
And big black Saint Beeton of the Consecrated Dime.
And step on the gas, Christ!
Move!
Don't be so slow about moving!!
The world is mine from now on-
And nobody's gonna sell ME
To a king, or a general,
Or a millionaire.

* * * *

The above are excerpts of writings of author and poet, Langston Hughes.

Presented for your information by:

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He gave her his loaf and
steadied her load
As she took her way on
the weary road.

Then to his door came a
little child,
Lost and afraid in the world
so wild,

In the big, dark world. Catching
[x] his up,

He gave him^[x] the milk in
the waiting cup,

And led him home to his
mother's arms,

Out of the reach of the
world's alarms.

The day went down in the
crimson west,

And with it the hope of
the blessed Guest;

And Conrad sighed as the
world turned gray:

"Why is it, Dad, that your
feet delay?"

Did you forget that ^{this is}
the day?"

Then, soft, in the silence a voice
he heard:

"Lift up your heart, for I
kept my word.

Three times I came to your
friendly door;

Three times my shadow was
on your floor.

I was the beggar with
bruised feet;

I was the woman you
gave to eat;

I was the child on the
homeless street."

END