

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 58: A View of the World

1. I'm going to be speaking to you about the Christian world view.

- ✓ Christianity and the teachings of the Bible are in absolute rebellion and counter to our worlds culture of hate and violence.
 - ✓ For a while now we have been following the Works of Jesus through the man Paul in the book of Acts.
 - ✓ We've come, finally, to the end of this study and last lines of the book and we find here some important lines that speak volumes to us about our daily living.
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- ✓ **Acts 28:30-31**; Nothing of Paul's practice has changed, still preaching, and teaching the truth.
 - ✓ Notice what he's preaching here specifically, the Kingdom and the King.
 - ✓ You don't hear that spoken of much in modern pulpits, preaching Jesus and the gospel, but not the "kingdom of God". That's odd for a couple of reasons:
 - 1) It was clearly something Paul consistently preached.
 - 2) It was clearly something Jesus Himself preached!!! **Matthew 4:23, 4:17, and Acts 1:3** (Acts begins and ends with the Kingdom of God being spoken of).
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- ✓ Christianity by its design and its practice described here in the book of Acts is an extreme counterculture movement because it understands the reality of the rule of the KING.
 - ✓ Jesus' coming the first time was no different to a certain degree than HIS coming the second time will be.
 - ✓ It was nothing less than an invasion albeit a peaceful one (as far as we are concerned)—Jesus came preaching: **"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"**.
 - ✓ This invasion was peaceful and self-sacrificing as far as humans are concerned but the demons had an altogether different perspective: **Mark 1:23-24**.
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- ✓ Jesus was countercultural because of His very being therefore, wherever He went turned things around: deaf heard, blind saw, cripple was whole; demon possessed went free, the dead rose.
 - ✓ There is nothing more countercultural than that.
 - ✓ He was countercultural because in Him and through Him was the presence Kingdom and what He touched got a taste of that kingdom.
 - ✓ Likewise, what He said to the Pharisees when they questioned by what power He delivered a person from demon possession. He said essentially: "Satan doesn't heal; Satan doesn't take demons out he puts them in!"
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✓ **Matthew 12:28**

- ✓ As an agency of the Kingdom, Jesus created the church...we are all agents of the kingdom.
 - ✓ We are not doctors, lawyers, teachers or even preachers....we are agents of the King!!!
 - ✓ Why do you think that when Jesus taught His disciples to pray that the second clause of that prayer is "Thy Kingdom come"?
 - ✓ Prayer is rebellion against the current kingdom and our church is in rebellion against the current kingdom.
 - ✓ Why do think that in the end the Scripture gives us a picture of rejoicing in Heaven when it says: **Revelation 11:15**
 - ✓ Are you at least beginning to get a grip on the Christian worldview and why I say that it is much more radical and countercultural than anything else out there?
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2. With a grip on this I'm going to give you some things to expect.

- 1) Should expect opposition and casualties
 - ✓ One of the most frustrating things about our world is that as we go to help them in name of Christ and rescue them from destruction we are attacked, maligned, and abused.
 - ✓ A church that doesn't want casualties is like a platoon that will not fight...they deserve to be court marshaled.
 - 2) You should expect the miraculous
 - ✓ When Jesus walked this earth, wherever He went people were healed, demons came out, lives were changed permanently
 - ✓ Tax collectors/thieves and extortionist gave their money away, prostitutes gave up their trade and unashamedly acknowledged Jesus publicly even wetting His feet with their tears and wiping them with their hair.
 - ✓ We expect no less dramatic things to happen around us as we share Jesus with our fallen world.
- ❖ Remember, He promised that even greater things than He had done they would do "because I go to the Father."
 - ❖ We will see all these things and more so if we'll step out in obedience and faith.
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