

Final Kingdom: Misunderstanding the Kingdom

Christy Penley

Acts 1:1-11

April 12, 2026

Reflection & Discussion

After the death and resurrection of Jesus he continued to talk to his followers about the Kingdom

Read and discuss Acts 1:1-5 (NIV)

1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

*What must it have been like to have your life turned upside down like Jesus' followers in those 40 days?

*What is the importance of waiting for the Holy Spirit?

God's Kingdom remained confusing to the disciples

Read and discuss Acts 1:6-11 (NIV)

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

*What was the confusion of the disciples? How do you identify with them?

*Why do you think Jesus didn't criticize their misunderstanding?

*Where might you be misunderstanding the Kingdom or be confused at what it means for you?

Jesus gives the apostles an agenda

They received divine enablement to be Jesus' witness everywhere.

*Do you consider yourself to be a witness everywhere? How have you accepted this mission or appointment as your own?

*Have you had an experience where you tried to live this Kingdom life in your own power? What about when you were fully relying on the power source?

*How has the Holy Spirit made a difference in your life?

God's Kingdom – the rule of God is for this world and the next

Staying connected to the Holy Spirit for power and following step by step is God's dream for us.

*How are you staying connected to the source of power lately? What might help you remain more connected to God?

*What is the Spirit prompting you to do with this picture of the Kingdom of God? Is there a step you are spurred to take?

[Access Pulpit Rock's Liturgy of the Hours](#)