The Story Continues

JR Bronger · Acts 1:1–3

INTRODUCTION

- Do you believe that God has called us out of the storm of sin in order for us to gather into a building and watch it rain?
- The book of Acts closes in Acts 28 and verse 31. But it closes in such a way that lets us know that while the book may close in the city of Rome, the story is to continue.
- In order for us to turn the world upside down, I'll tell you what's going to have to happen. We're going to have to be turned upside down.

1 Trust the Great Power of God to Save

Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:21

- We need to once again begin to trust the great power of God to save.
- It is the truth of God that saves. It is the gospel power of God that saves.
- He's not ashamed of the gospel. For it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- It's not the gimmicks and it's not the changes. It's the power of the gospel that saves.
- We've got to get back to trusting the power of the word to save.
- Christianity was not something that they added to their life. Christianity was their life.

2 Become Bold, Courageous in the Face of All Opposition

Acts 4:17–29; Ephesians 6:18–19; 2 Timothy 3:12

- Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.
- Now, Lord, look on their threats and grant to your servants that with all boldness they may speak your word.
- Our culture is so geared to not offending anybody that it's made us a bunch of cowards.
- The Bible teaches us that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.
- Persecution never stamped out a church. Persecution never thwarted the will of God.
- Luke warmness, apathy. These are things that destroy churches.

3 Make Some Dramatic Changes in Our Lives

2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:4; Ephesians 4:22–24

- We are buried with him through baptism into death. That, like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also walk in newness of life.
- We're raised out of the waters of baptism to be different than we used to be.

- You don't speak the way you used to speak. You don't go to the places you used to go. You don't treat people the way you used to treat them.
- If we want to be able to reach people and we want to continue the story, they've got to see what the gospel has done in our lives.
- But he couldn't do that until there was that 180 degree turn.

4 Reaching Out to All the Lost

Acts 2:39; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11

- We have got to reach out to all the lost regardless of their skin color. Regardless of their ethnicity, regardless of their country of origin. And regardless of the sin in which they are involved.
- The gospel is for everybody, and everybody can change. And it's up to us to make the gospel available.
- How do we know? How do we know they're not going to be interested?
- Such were some of you, but you were sanctified. You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.
- Let's not decide who is or is not worthy of the gospel of Christ. Let's reach out to all the lost.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are we continuing? Are we continuing the story? It's up to us. This is why this congregation exists.**

MY NOTES