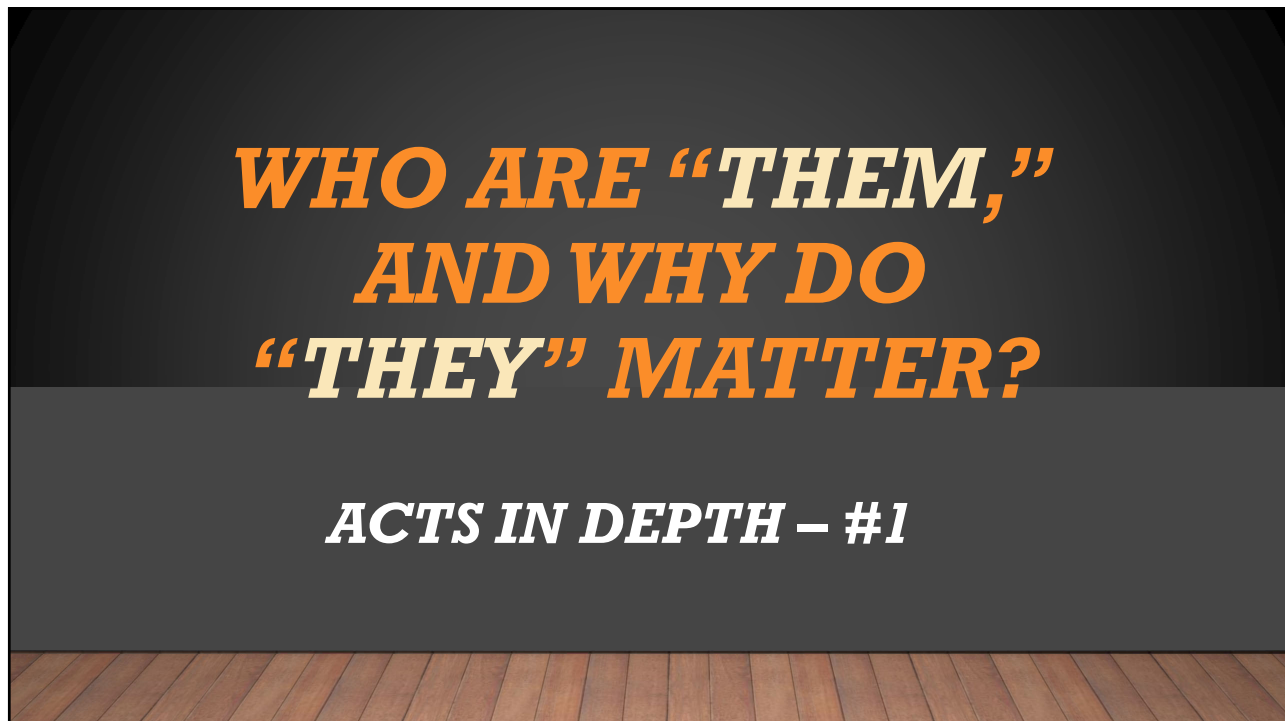




1



2

<sup>4</sup>...He commanded **THEM** not to depart from Jerusalem,

## Who Is “THEM”?

*How Do We Know?*

*The Context: Acts 1:1-14*

3

## ACTS 1:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to **THE APOSTLES WHOM** He had chosen, <sup>3</sup> to **WHOM** He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by **THEM** during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

4

## ACTS 1:4-5

<sup>4</sup> And being assembled together with [them], He commanded **THEM** not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” [He said,] “**YOU** have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup> “for John truly baptized with water, but **YOU** shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” <sup>6</sup> Therefore, when **THEY** had come together, **THEY** asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

5

## ACTS 1:7-9

<sup>7</sup> And He said to **THEM**, “It is not for **YOU** to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup> “But **YOU** shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon **YOU**; and **YOU** shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” <sup>9</sup> Now when He had spoken these things, while **THEY** watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of **THEIR** sight.

6

## ACTS 1:10-12

<sup>10</sup> And while **THEY** looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by **THEM** in white apparel, <sup>11</sup> who also said, “**MEN** of Galilee, why do **YOU** stand gazing up into heaven? This [same] Jesus, who was taken up from **YOU** into heaven, will so come in like manner as **YOU** saw Him go into heaven.” <sup>12</sup> Then **THEY** returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

7

## ACTS 1:13-14

<sup>13</sup> And when **THEY** had entered, **THEY** went up into the upper room where **THEY** were staying: **Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James [the son] of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.** <sup>14</sup> **THESE** all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

8

## WHO Is THEM?

<sup>4</sup>...He commanded **THEM** not to depart from Jerusalem,

**Who Is “THEM”?**

**The 11 Apostles**

**Why Does It Matter? (!)**

9

## To the Apostles, Jesus...

- a. gave commandments (2)
- b. presented Himself alive (3a)
- c. spoke of things pertaining to the kingdom of God (3b)
- d. commanded not to depart from Jerusalem (4)
- e. commanded to wait for the Promise of the Father (4b-5)
- f. explained the limits regarding times or seasons (7)
- g. promised power through the Holy Spirit (8a)
- h. instructs to be witnesses (Great Comm) (8b)
- i. ascends into the sky (9)

**Jesus' attention & focus?**

**The Apostles.  
WHY??**

10

## WHO Is THEM?

<sup>4</sup>...He commanded **THEM** not to depart from Jerusalem,

*Who Is “THEM”?*

*The 11 Apostles*

*Why Does It Matter? (!)*

11

## MATTHEW 28:16-20 | Who Is “Them”?

<sup>16</sup> Then the **ELEVEN DISCIPLES** went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for **THEM**. <sup>17</sup> When **THEY** saw Him, **THEY** worshiped Him; but **SOME** doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to **THEM**, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded **YOU**; and lo, I am with **YOU** always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

12



## WHO Is THEM?

<sup>4</sup>...He commanded **THEM** not to depart from Jerusalem,

**Who Is “THEM”?**

**The 11 Apostles**

**Why Does It Matter? (!)**

13

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

*Jesus commanded “**the apostles**” vs “**everyone**”*

- *Determines if Jesus defined a church **leadership** – or not.*
- *Defines the **nature** of the local church – or not.*
- *Indicates if there is **responsibility** and **accountability** – or not.*
- *Emphasizes the need for thorough **training** – or not.*
- *Differentiates between **gender** responsibilities – or not.*
- *Suggests **age** and **maturity** prerequisites for service – or not.*

14

## ACTS | *It Does Matter...*

As with the Gospels, Acts identifies the Apostles as:

- Chosen by Jesus
- Trained by Jesus
- Adults
- Men
- By Name

15

## EPH 2:19-22 | *It Does Matter...*

<sup>19</sup> Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> **having been built on the foundation of the APOSTLES and prophets,** Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, <sup>22</sup> in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

16



## EPH 4:11-13 | *It Does Matter...*

<sup>11</sup> And He Himself gave some [to be] **APOSTLES**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and some **pastors and teachers**, <sup>12</sup> for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

17

## WHY DOES IT MATTER?

### *The Impact of the Apostles as the Foundation*

- Not apostolic **succession**
- Rather apostolic **foundation**
  - Directed by their leadership, divine authority, and decisions
  - Directed by their immediate revelation from God (early church)
  - Directed by their written revelation from God (Eph 2:20)
  - Directed by the God-given leadership structure (Eph 4:11ff)

18

## ***WHY DOES IT MATTER?***

***Jesus directly commissioned the APOSTLES as the foundational, authoritative leaders of the soon-to-be future church.***

***Through His working through His APOSTLES, Jesus established the foundation for local church order, leadership qualifications, authority structure, accountability, and reaffirmed gender roles.***