**Dream Again, Lessons from the Book of Acts:**

**Imagine a New Possible: Acts 1:1-5**

December 27, 2015

Intro:

* Tennessee Williams: "Something by Tolstoi"
* Have you lost sight of the dream?
* Luke and Theophilus:

a doctor writes to a Roman official

1. Jesus is just getting started:

 Where are you in His story?

 (Acts 1:1-3)

A. Jesus’ life on earth was just the beginning of His ministry.

* V.1 “all that Jesus began to do and teach”

B. Jesus showed He was alive to prove He would continue to

 lead.

* V.3 “He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs”

C. Now Jesus reigns from the Father’s side and we are called

 to multiply the work which He began.

* John 14:12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.”
* The early church believed this and saw thousands turn to Christ and the entire Roman empire transformed.
* Have you lost sight of this amazing vision?
* What is your place in Jesus’ plan?

2. Jesus is building God’s Kingdom:

 Whose kingdom are you building?

 (Acts 1:4-5)

A. Jesus’ theme was the Kingdom of God.

* V.3 “speaking about the kingdom of God”
* The word for kingdom appears 162 times in the New Testament.

B. The kingdom of God is wherever God rules as King

* Where God is acknowledged, His ways are upheld, and His purposes prevail, there the Kingdom of God is present in this world.
* Luke 11:20 “But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

C. One day this world will come under God’s perfect rule

* Revelation 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”
* Kevin DeYoung: “In Jesus’ ministry we see the signs of the kingdom. The sick are healed. The hungry are fed. Demons are defeated. Sinners repent and come to God in faith. With Jesus, the kingdom has arrived, but it hasn’t fully set up shop.”

D. What kingdom do you seek and what king do you serve?

* Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.
* Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

3. Jesus offers us the Spirit:

 Who are you relying on?

 (Acts 1:5)

A. It’s easy to run ahead of God.

* V.4 “wait for the promise of the Father”
* Just having the answers isn’t enough.
* John 20:21-22 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

B. God’s Spirit is His gift to all believers through faith.

* V.5 “you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit”
* There is no condition given or merit required.

C. What spirit are you most influenced by?

* Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit
* Luke 11:13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

**Notes:**