



Transition Into Apostolic Ministry

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me” (Acts 1:4).

Bulletin VCAT01

15 March 2023

Preparation precedes Success. It

is the quality and duration of preparation that determines the level of success.

“The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:1-8).

Luke, The Author

The book of Acts and Luke are believed to have been written by Luke to Theophilus, a prominent figure as a follow-up material. His aim was to ensure that Theophilus' faith is firmly established in the knowledge of “all that Jesus began both to do and teach....” (vs 1). What an excellent mark of Christian diligence in discipling a young convert.

- 1) Luke was not one of the 12 apostles of Jesus. He was a companion of Paul probably to offer medical assistance to him. He became the author of these books because he associated with an anointed person. Association brings impartation. Joshua became a leader after Moses, whom he faithfully served. Elisha obtained double portion of Elisha, because he faithfully served him. The destitute men who followed David all became mighty men of valour. “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Proverb 13:20). Just like keeping company with good people blesses, in the

same way, company with evil people corrupts “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

- 2) Luke did not waste his knowledge and experiences gained while travelling with Paul. He became a soulwinner and effectively disciplined souls. There is no knowledge / experience that you have gained that is useless, if you will humbly use them for Jesus.

Preparation for Apostolic Ministry

To effectively prepare the disciples for transition into their apostolic ministry, Jesus:

- 1) Showed Himself to them, to boost their confidence and faith (vs 3);
- 2) Instructed them to tarry for the promise of the Father before commencing their ministry (vs 4,5);
- 3) Answered their questions, setting out their priorities and scope for ministry (vs 6-8).

Transition Through Preparation. It is the days and quality of preparation that determines the level of success in Ministry. God's choicest servants spent years in preparation before they transitioned into limelight:

- 1) Jesus spent 30 years preparing for three and a half years of ministry;
- 2) Moses spent 80 years (40 in Egypt and 40 in Midian desert) preparing for a 40 years of service;
- 3) Both Joseph and David were teenagers at the time of their call, but never came to limelight until they were 30 years of age.

God is not in hurry, and we must take times of preparation seriously, if we are to achieve our God given purpose and fulfil our ministries.