



Vessels of Honour In Divine Service

"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work" (2 Timothy 2:21).

Bulletin VCAT89

10 September 2025

Introduction

Beloved in Christ, we have walked together through the precious pages of the Acts of the Apostles, line upon line, precept upon precept. We have studied its details, its movements of the Holy Ghost, and its testimony to the power of the risen Christ. Today, having completed both detailed study and some general overviews, let us gather more fruits of our journey.

The book of Acts is not only a record of the early church; it is a divine pattern of what God can do through ordinary men and women who are fully yielded to Him. The apostles were not mighty in themselves, but by their character, obedience, and faith, they became **"vessels unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work"** (2 Timothy 2:21).

Our task today is twofold:

1. To identify the qualities and attributes that made the apostles usable by God.
2. To outline the steps that we, as Christians in these last days, must take to cultivate similar traits, so that we too may be vessels of honour in God's service.

1. The Apostles were men of unwavering faith and obedience

The apostles trusted God absolutely, even in the face of opposition, imprisonment, and death.

Acts 5:29 – *"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."*

Their loyalty was not to the systems of this world but to Christ. Their faith was not theoretical, but practical – seen in their boldness, their prayers, and their persistence in witness.

For us today, we must:

- Develop personal conviction rooted in Scrip-

"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men" (Acts 24:16).

ture.

- Obey God's Word even when unpopular.
- Remember that obedience brings divine backing.

Romans 10:17 – *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

2. The Apostles were filled with the Holy Ghost

From Pentecost onwards, the Spirit was their strength, guide, and source of power.

Acts 1:8 – *"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."*

The apostles were not relying on human wisdom but on the Spirit of God.

For us today, we must:

- Seek continual filling of the Spirit through prayer, consecration, and obedience.
- Not grieve the Spirit with sin or worldliness.
- Depend on the Spirit's leading in every aspect of life.

Ephesians 5:18 – *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."*

3. The Apostles were men of prayer

Prayer was the lifeline of the early church. They prayed in the upper room, in prison, before making decisions, and for the sick and oppressed.

Acts 4:31 – *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy*

Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."

For us today:

- We must cultivate both private and corporate prayer.
- Prayer must be earnest, persistent, and believing.
- We must recognise that the prayer life of the church is the power life of the church.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – *"Pray without ceasing."*

4. The Apostles were courageous witnesses

They preached Christ crucified and risen, even when threatened.

Acts 4:20 – *"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."*

They were not silent in the face of hostility, nor ashamed of the Gospel.

For us today, we must:

- Not compromise the truth of the Gospel.
- Witness with both words and lives.
- Exude boldness that comes through the Spirit and through conviction in Christ.

Romans 1:16 – *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

5. The Apostles lived lives of holiness and integrity

God's vessels must be clean. Hypocrisy was judged severely in the church, as with Ananias and Sapphira. The apostles themselves lived above reproach.

Acts 24:16 – *"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men."*

For us today, we must:

- Cleanse ourselves from sin, compromise, and worldliness.
- Be people of integrity in both speech and conduct.
- Live holy lives as holiness is not optional; rather it is the mark of a vessel of honour.

Hebrews 12:14 – *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see*

the Lord."

6. The Apostles were united in love and fellowship

The early church was marked by unity of heart and spirit.

Acts 2:44–45 – *"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need."*

Unity, generosity, and love marked them out as disciples of Christ.

For us today, we must:

- Love one another genuinely.
- Avoid strife, division, and envy in the body of Christ.
- Be generous and compassionate toward others.

John 13:35 – *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

Conclusion – Becoming Vessels of Honour

Beloved, the apostles were not extraordinary men by nature. They were fishermen, tax collectors, and ordinary citizens. What made them extraordinary was their surrender to God. In these last days, God still seeks men and women who will be vessels of honour – holy, prayerful, Spirit-filled, obedient, courageous, and loving.

Let us therefore heed the call:

2 Timothy 2:21 – *"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."*

The world waits for a church that is consecrated, united, and bold. The Acts of the Apostles is not closed – it continues in us. May we, by God's grace, be vessels of honour for His glory in this generation.

Amen.