

Themes and Ideas of Acts

*Note how the portrait of the work of the Apostles in Acts parallels Jesus in Luke:**

Apostles (Acts)	Jesus (Luke)
Holy Spirit descends on them at Pentecost (2:1-4)	Holy Spirit descends on Jesus at baptism (3:21-22)
Peter's preaching beginning with prophets (Joel; 2:16-36)	Jesus' preaching begins with prophets (Isaiah; 4:14-30)
Appeal for others to join them (2:37-41)	Calling the disciples (5:1-11, 27-32)
Healing the lame beggar (3:1-10)	Healing the blind beggar (18:35-43)
High Priest arrests them and takes them before the council (4:1-22)	Arrested and taken before the council (22:47-71)
Summary of signs, wonders, miracles, esp. exorcisms (5:12-16; 8:6-7, 13)	Summary of healings, exorcisms (4:40-41; 6:17-19)
Sick healed by contact with apostles (5:15; 19:11-12)	Woman healed by contact with Jesus (8:43-48)
Jewish leaders plot to kill them because of teachings (5:17-42)	Jewish leaders plot to kill Jesus because of teachings (19:45-48)
Peter raises Tabitha from the dead (9:36-42)	Jesus raises widow's son (7:11-17)
Peter's encounter with devout centurion (10)	Jesus' encounter with centurion of great faith (7:1-10)
Paul compelled by Spirit to go to Jerusalem, even though may face death (19:21; 21:8-17)	Jesus determined to go to Jerusalem, knowing He faced death (9:51; 13:33; 19:11-28)
Paul welcomed by believers at Jerusalem, then goes to Temple (21:17-26)	Jesus welcomed by crowds in Jerusalem, then goes to Temple (19:28-48)
Paul seized by mob, later stands trial before Roman governors (21:30-36; 23-26:32)	Jesus arrested by mob, later stands trial before Roman governor (22:47-54; 23:1-25)
Paul's dealings with Pharisees; and Sadducees (who don't believe in resurrection); (23)	Jesus' dealings with Pharisees; and Sadducees (over issue of resurrection); (20)
Stephen (though not an apostle) shows attitude of forgiveness as he is being killed (7:59-60)	Jesus' attitude of forgiveness on the cross (23:34, 46)

*Chart ideas from Felix Just: <http://bellarmine.lmu.edu/faculty/fjust/Bible/acts.htm>