“Going Viral – How it all got started”

 *(Acts 1:1-11)*

***Going Viral*** – the phenomenon of news, an image or video has become incredibly popular in hours or days **by being shared** by thousands (or even millions) of people on social media.

Today we are going to start a journey through the book of Acts and look at how the Gospel spread – how it went ‘viral’!

As history, we understand Acts is descriptive, not prescriptive. However, we learn from history and take away principles that help us to understand how God works and how we can respond to Him.

*Acts 1- In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach 2until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit.*

* Luke teaches that the task is world evangelization, and the power to carry out that task is the Holy Spirit.

*3During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.*

* CONFIDENCE because of the resurrection
* COMFORT because of the coming Kingdom

*4Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. 5John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

**WAIT for the PROMISE**

*6So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”*

*7He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. 8But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

**WITNESS with POWER**

COURAGE to be witnesses

**The power of the Holy Spirit is for the proclamation of the Gospel…**

**Where?**

* Jerusalem - Our Community - Wyndham
* Judea – Our State - Victoria
* Samaria – The places we would rather not go!
* Uttermost parts – The field is the world.

*9After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. 10As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. 11“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”*

*12Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. 13When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying… 14They all met together and were constantly united in prayer...*

**WATCH and PRAY**

*Matthew 24 42“So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming.*

* Christ is returning and we do not know when. Watch and Pray!
* We can have CONFIDENCE because of the resurrection
* We can have COMFORT in a world of chaos because of the coming Kingdom
* We can have COURAGE to be witnesses because of the POWER of the Holy Spirit!