

①
for May 11, 2025

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."
(John 10 ~22-30)

Jesus was speaking into a time when this message was revolutionary.

↓
(child of God thr. birth / heritage)

Reset: not based on birth, but on whether a person chooses to hear the voice of God.

Contentiousness w/ Pharisees. ^{Jesus' Complaint:} They saw the works of God; they heard the voice of God, yet they did not recognize God in those words and acts.

But we are the people of acts. ~~Don't mean. acts we do~~
In two ways...

(First,) we are the people of Acts (~~of the Apostles~~).
We have found God b/c someone else told us their story.

Think about ~~from~~ the resurrection and the women running back to tell what they had seen (He is risen)...

Then consider → the series of people - named & unnamed -
whose stories get told in the Acts of the Apostles.

TODAY: → TABITHA → Dorcas
- she has a story ← told to her
"good works and charity"

People saw God through Tabitha's acts. "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, & they follow me."

→ Notice: all the widows -
"weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Tabitha had made" ...

(2)

5/11/2025

We are the people of Acts.

~~The other way in which we~~ — bc someone told their story to us.
~~The so~~

The second way in which we are the people of Acts is that we are part of the story of how God has shown up.

In the course of simply trying to survive each day and lead meaningful lives, ~~we find ourselves~~ we are in the story and we hear God's voice.

~~The~~ ^{past} The ~~fast~~ two days, I have been meeting with ~~my~~ ^{helping} ~~fellow~~ colleagues who focus on the people of Sudan and So./ Sudan. Brief history

• Ambassadors
• State Dept
• USAID
• former

• clergy
• funders
• academics
• ~~academia~~ ^{philosophers?}

← current admin's withdrawal of ~~humanitarian~~ aid & changes that have also affected the United Nations ability to act in emergency response to ongoing civil war.

It might be easy to get discouraged ← ^{overwhelming needs} ~~S.S.'s~~ ^{govt not addressing} ~~withdrawal of U.S. support~~ ^{peace}

But we are not discouraged, because ~~we~~ we are part of a story

→ ^{in So Sudan} Women: numeracy, literacy → trauma healing
(Mother's Union & 5 Talents)

* These women encounter the healing power of our Saviour Jesus Christ as they work together, listen to each other's story, & do not shrink away from horror but instead, lean into each other ↓

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The women of S. Sudan hear Jesus' voice in the voice of one another. ~~So much~~ ^{so effective} → Sudan.
"My Sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."



You also are ^{the} people of Acts.

You are in the story of God's ~~rescuing~~ ^{rescuing} help,
God's sustaining power.

So I hope, ~~this week~~ ^{later today}, you will think about what
the story is that you are part of.

~~How~~ or where are you ~~seeing~~ ^{part of} God's light?

God's power?

God's healing justice at work?

Where are you hearing God's voice?

And when you figure that out, tell someone.

Because that's how God chooses to get heard,

through our stories.

Your story.

Amen