### [00:00:00] <music>

Annie:

Hi, friends. Welcome to another episode of That Sounds Fun. I'm your host Annie F. Downs. I'm so happy to be here with you. I have loved this Monday series we've been doing. Y'all have too. It keeps rolling today.

But before we dive in, I want to tell you about one of our incredible sponsors, <u>AG1</u>. I've been drinking AG1 for a long time now because it's such an easy way for me to make sure I'm covering my nutritional bases in 60 seconds. Taking care of our health should not be complicated.

AG1 simplifies it because I don't have to keep track of a million different pills and capsules. Instead, it's one scoop of AG1 mixed in really cold water every day. Y'all know I like to add a little frozen lemon juice cubes to it. It's important to me that the supplements I take are of the highest quality. And that's why for so many years, unlike many supplement brands, I know I can trust what's in every scoop of AG1 because they obsess over the practices and the ingredients, and they are heavily researched. Quality really is their commitment, and at each step of the process, they really go above and beyond industry standards.

So if you want to replace your multivitamin and more, start with AG1. Try AG1 and get this free one-year supply of vitamin D3 plus K2 and five free AG1 travel packs with your first subscription at <a href="mailto:drinkag1.com/soundsfun">drinkag1.com/soundsfun</a>. That's drinkag1.com/soundsfun. Y'all check it out.

Intro:

Today we are diving into the Book of Acts with Pastor of the Pod and Pastor of Cross Point Church here in Nashville, Dr. Kevin Queen. I am so excited for you to hear this conversation and truly so excited for the month of May over on the Let's Read the Gospels podcast.

We have done Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John over and over since January of 2023, but starting on May 1st, we are going through the Book of Acts. So if you've listened through with us at any time before, or if you've never joined us, May is a great time to jump in. It is also our last month of the Let's Read the Gospels podcast.

I am thrilled that we are closing it out and ending really well with the Book of Acts. So make sure you are subscribed to Let's Read the Gospels. We're going to start on Wednesday, May 1st. We're going to read one chapter a day. It'll take us 28 days. And then you have finished what you started, which is really, really cool.

So there is a lot to learn in the book of Acts. Let's dive in right now. And here's my conversation with our pastor of the pod, Pastor Kevin Queen.

# [00:02:33] <music>

**Annie:** Pastor, Dr. Kevin Queen, welcome back to That Sounds Fun.

**Kevin:** Why do you want to throw that "doctor" in there?

**Annie:** Well, because, a) you did the work for it, right?

**Kevin:** Yeah. But even thermometers have degrees, and you know where they put those.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh, that's a great line. Well, one of the things you taught me early on of us

being at church together was that you didn't want your education to close any doors the Lord might want to open. And so you did as much as you could to make sure you were available to whatever God might have based on what time you had and the experience you had. I think that has impacted me a lot. So I'm really grateful.

Listen, here's something you don't know. It's our 10th year of That Sounds Fun. It is

also your 10th episode of That Sounds Fun.

**Kevin:** Come on.

**Annie:** Let's go! That means you're in the Hall of Fun, Pastor Kevin.

**Kevin:** The Hall of Fun.

**Annie:** Look at you right there. You are in the Hall of Fun. It only takes five to get in, you

are in double

**Kevin:** Can I get a picture of that?

**Annie:** Yeah, sure. We'll take a picture with it later. You said double portion.

**Kevin:** Double portion.

**Annie:** You said, "I'll get 10 episodes in before the Hall of Fun starts". But there's only,

what, 15 of y'all?

**Kevin:** Wow.

**Annie:** There you are.

**Kevin:** Heroes in the faith.

**Annie:** Like Santa. Is he one of the people you're mentioning? Santa Claus made it? Yeah, I

know, it's really fun. It's a great group. We feel very lucky that of our 800, almost

900 episodes, that all these people would come back more than once.

**Kevin:** We're grateful, thanks for-

**Annie:** Including you.

**Kevin:** Yeah, thank you for the invitation.

**Annie:** Pastor of the Pod, it's been a while.

**Kevin:** It has.

Annie: I'm sorry to tell you. You did prayer with us last year, a good prayer Q&A. What do

you know about prayer now that you didn't know when you were here two years

ago?

**Kevin:** Something that I learned just this past Sunday is what God can do when we stop

talking.

**Annie:** Yeah, listen, tell about it if you want.

**Kevin:** Well, Sunday... I mean every Sunday there's a group of us that gather for prayer

before the weekend's messages, sermons, services. We gather, we pray, we end our time in communion. This past week when you were preaching, or before you were preaching, we were gathered back in that room, and God just... He showed up in the

room.

I mean, it was one of those times... I don't know that I've ever experienced anything like it. There were probably seven of us back there in that room, and it was like the Holy Spirit just put his finger on all of our lips and just filled the room with His

presence. That's the only way that I know how to describe it, just the presence.

**Annie:** We've been praying on Sunday mornings since 2017, so 52 times 7, and I've never

experienced anything like that. I mean, 43 times 52, because that's how old I am. I've never experienced anything like that. Five, six minutes where no one... it was

almost like we couldn't. I just had tears rolling down my eyes.

I told you when you sat down, the only thing I've said to the Lord since Sunday is whatever it takes to experience your present like that, I'll sell it, I'll buy it, I'll send it, I'll keep it. What does it take for the Lord's presence to... I think it takes 52

weeks of praying after seven... I think there's a long obedience in the same direction that opens up...

**Kevin:** 

We just keep showing up. It's consistency. I think so many times when we want something to happen, we think about what's the intensity that we have to bring. But what I learned on Sunday, I think what we saw is it's just the consistency. It's almost consistency over intensity.

Annie:

Because do you have weeks... I'll confess first. I have weeks where we finish praying and I'm like, are you going to do anything different this week or is it going to be the same? Because we do this every week and to what end? And often my excuse that I give God is, well, you probably protected people from something because we didn't see you break out. So we didn't see the Holy Spirit fall. We didn't see blah, blah, blah. So you must've just gotten people there safely. So, okay.

**Kevin:** 

Yeah. I think the hard thing is sometimes as pastors we get to hear all the stories, and I'm not sure that the intercessors get to hear the stories in the same way. So I don't know that I do a great job of circling back the next week and saying, Hey, listen, because you were... and sharing those testimonies.

So what I just got from that is that there's power in coming back and saying, Hey, because we prayed and not... Yeah.

Annie:

Anytime you have those, I would love those. I mean, it hadn't kept me from coming, obviously. But Tuesday at Cross Point... you are the pastor of Cross Point Church, where I attend, and I'm lucky enough to be on your teaching team, just for people who are new and didn't know Pastor of the Pod meant also pastor of my life. We would list all the episodes of this that you've been on so people can go back and hear your story as well. But what are you learning in Tuesday prayer when y'all gather at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays?

**Kevin:** 

It is my favorite hour of the week. And I think one of the reasons I love it so much is it's not on Planning Center. Planning Center is a platform, it's an application that churches and ministries use to coordinate things, to do that, to plan things out. That's the one hour that we just put the sail up and just see what God's doing.

Oftentimes what happens is that room on Tuesdays, the people that are in that room get to experience first what the congregation is going to get on the weekend. So I love entering into that moment, not really having a... We're talking about the Father's blessing on Sunday. So today part of that prayer time was like, hey, if you need a Father, if you need a blessing from the Father, you know, if maybe...

We talked about Eldredge has those two questions. He said that every little boy is asking the question, do I have what it takes? And every little girl is asking the question, am I lovely? And he says it's the Father's job to answer that question a thousand times in a thousand different ways that yes, you have what it takes and yes, you are lovely.

So what occurred to me is when Jesus is baptized, the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, the loved one, this is my beloved Son, with whom I'm well pleased. I'm proud of you. You have what it takes." Before He began His ministry, Jesus gets the Father, He receives the Father's blessing. And just felt like, Hey, today, if you need that, maybe those questions weren't answered for you, and you need to receive that blessing from the Father. And that wasn't scary. It just kind of came in the moment.

**Annie:** You didn't take notes before the prayer.

**Kevin:** Right. And it just received that. There were people who had just meaningful... there were some powerful moments of prayer and people received hugs. There was just this-

**Annie:** Was Rob there? Was Rob just hugging people?

**Kevin:** Rob was there.

**Annie:** I bet he was.

**Kevin:** 

Rob was up there with Pastor Darren and Rob. It was a beautiful, beautiful moment. But I love because it builds anticipation over what we're going to experience on a... it scales, right? The move of the spirit scales. So we get to experience it in a concentrated form.

You know, it's like my Nana used to have orange juice concentrate, came in this little can, and then she would have to... and you know, I think about those Tuesday at 11. It's like the concentrated form of what we're asking for.

Annie: This is very good lead-in to Acts because in what they experienced, right, I mean they got the concentrated form and then went out and sent it. Okay, so as you know we've been reading the Gospels for a year and a half now. We've finished Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John for the 14th time. And now we are jumping into the Book of Acts on Wednesday. Will you talk a little bit about the people who just finished reading the Gospels? What do you do now? Now that you've read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we actually read it, John, Luke, Mark, Matthew, what's the takeaway after you read the Gospels?

**Kevin:** I mean, when I think about, for me personally, and one way I've heard it talked

about is that Matthew tells us what Jesus said, Mark tells us what Jesus did, John

tells us who Jesus is, and Luke tells us how Jesus feels.

Annie: Oh, wow.

**Kevin:** He gives us the humanity, which He's a doctor, so He's given us the humanity, fully

God, fully man, more than humanity. So these dimensions or perspectives or understandings that God has given us through His word of who Jesus is. So when I

think about that, that sets us up for the next.

So I think, especially how you've continued to move through those gospels really sets the context for what next. How do we take this message, this good news, this

gospel, how do we take this into how do we live a life on mission with Jesus?

**Annie:** So one of the interesting things is Luke wrote Luke and he wrote Acts. Were they

originally one and they split them up or did he write two letters to Theophilus?

**Kevin:** I mean, there were two historical accounts, right? So he gathers this historical

account of the life of Christ, and then he comes back with this second account, but a continuation. So the first one, he's like, this is an account of the ministry of Jesus. Then the second one is an account of the ministry of Jesus. It's called the Acts of

the Apostles but-

**Annie:** Why are we shorting it?

**Kevin:** Really, really, I mean, it's more the acts or the activity of the Holy Spirit and a

continuation of the ministry of Jesus through the church. So that's why we short it. I think there are really only a few apostles who are mentioned or who are at the kind of center stage throughout some of the chapters, but for the most part, it is the Holy

Spirit at work, the ministry of Jesus through the Holy Spirit in the church

continuation.

**Annie:** I read through the book of Acts this morning, and I was blown away that it took

until chapter 20 before Luke switched it to us and we. I mean, a) he doesn't say, and then I was with him. He just literally starts with, on the first day of the week, we came together to break bread. And you're like, we? So are you telling me, Pastor

Kevin, that from Acts 20 on, Luke is in the story.

**Kevin:** He is in the story, which this-

**Annie:** Where did he come from?

**Kevin:** 

I didn't realize this until this year when we were in this study as a church. I never saw this before. So here's Luke, this historian who's basically there's a benefactor who's going, hey, I want you to write this, Theophilus, I want you to write this account for me. So he's going and he's writing this. I read that Luke actually became a believer-

Annie:

Through the research.

**Kevin:** 

Through the research. So he enters into this as this researcher, as this historian, as this doctor. And then Barnabas... Some take back to like at Antioch that that would have been the time. Some say that Barnabas would have been the one that led him to the Lord.

Annie:

Yes, it was Barnabas. I did not know that till right now, but of course it was. One Paul. One Paul. It was Barnabas. That's right. I did not know that.

**Kevin:** 

Yeah, so like that Luke comes to Christ in the journey, and then he's full-on, fully devoted.

**Annie:** 

And then he gets in a shipwreck with Paul. God love him. Then you just keep reading after 20... I mean, I know we're skipping 19 chapters, but I'm like, poor Luke gets in the story right when they spend an entire winter on a desert island because they got in a shipwreck.

**Kevin:** 

In Malta, right?

**Annie:** 

Yeah, it's crazy. Okay, so when we're reading... let's start with big picture, and then I literally... we'll show you... I have like just two pages of notes of things I want us to sort out about the book of Acts. The big picture is why should we read this book? Why does it matter? After we've done so much Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, Why am I taking them to Acts next?

Kevin:

So now what?

Annie:

Yeah.

**Kevin:** 

Right? I mean, I think that is the question. Now what? That the historical account of the life of Jesus is so that we would experience the life of Jesus, so that we would live this mission of Jesus, so that we would live life on mission. So you've got Jesus who commissions these disciples at the end of Matthew, where He gives them this great commission and His last words, our first priority, our marching

orders, that we would take this good news message to the corners, that we would take it throughout, that we would make disciples.

So what does that look like and how is that experienced through the context of local church and through the church? That's what we get in the book of Acts. That's what we're living in it, we're living the story. Whenever I read Acts, it just messes with me, Annie. There's this sense of, like, man, this longing for more. It's like there's this dissonance between what I'm currently experiencing and the more and...

Rea and I talk about this all the time. When we're in Acts, more of God's presence and more of His power and more of the signs, wonders, and miracles, like, this is... When I read it, I'm like, why am I not experiencing more of this in my life right now, today?

We had snow back in February, maybe it was February, January, and it shut things down for a week in Nashville. and there was just this pent-up energy of like, man, I gotta get out of the house. I think Acts does that for me, too. It's like, man, I gotta get out of wherever I've constrained or limited the move of God, basically, because of belief or because of apathy or because of my own comfort or aversion of risk. Where have I whittled things down? And how do I get out and experience the more of what He has? I get stir-crazy when I read this book in a good way.

# [00:16:41] <music>

#### **Sponsor:**

Shout out to <u>Claritin</u> for supporting this episode and providing us with some samples. So if you have read That Sounds Fun, you probably remember the story of me trying to get a dog and then realizing I was allergic. Sad day. This is why I'm glad I found Claritin D because an allergy attack is literally the worst. So I am thankful to have it on hand around my friends, pets, and other things.

Luckily for those of us who live with the symptoms of allergies, we can live Claritin-clear with Claritin D. It's designed for serious allergy sufferers. Claritin D has two powerful ingredients in just one pill. This double-action combination of prescription-strength allergy medicine and the best decongestant available relieves sneezing, a runny nose, itchy and watery eyes, and itchy nose and throat, and sinus congestion and pressure with ease. Amen to that.

There are also a lot of seasonal allergy sufferers over here at AFD Inc. and at the That Sounds Fun Network. So Claritin D really works for this crew.

Ready to live life as if you don't have allergies? It is time to live Claritin-clear. Fast and powerful relief is just a quick trip away. So you can find Claritin D at your pharmacy counter. Just ask a pharmacist for Claritin D at the pharmacy counter.

And you don't even need a prescription. Just go to <u>Claritin.com</u> right now and you can get a discount so you can live Claritin-clear. Use as directed.

#### **Sponsor:**

So I know candles are cute and smell good, but have you ever thought about where they go when we throw them away? You guys, apparently almost 2 billion candles are sold globally each year, and almost all of them are likely to end up in landfills for the next 1 million years. Craziness.

That's why I think <u>NOTES Candles</u> are so cool. They're working to eliminate single-use candle vessels and give home fragrance lovers a more earth-friendly option. NOTES has created a refillable candle system that allows you to use your candle vessel over and over again. It is super easy.

The candles are made with fragranced wax beads, so all you do is place the wick in your reusable NOTES jar, fill it up with the wax beads, and enjoy your fragrance for up to 36 hours. They have some really fun fragrances too: vanilla and pepperwood, pistachio and rosewater, and 11 other really great ones to choose from.

Be a responsible consumer while not giving up high-quality home fragrance by making the switch to NOTES. You can build your custom starter kit right now at notescandle.com/thatsoundsfun.

Right now NOTES is giving our friends 15% off and free shipping when you buy a NOTES starter kit using the code THATSOUNDSFUN. Again, the code is THATSOUNDSFUN when you're placing your order. That's THATSOUNDSFUN at notescandle.com/thatsoundsfun.

## **Sponsor:**

All right, I know we all love a good hair day, and when I use <u>Prose</u>, it truly always is a good hair day. Switching to a custom hair routine has been so helpful. I've noticed the benefits for sure, like my hair looking healthier and shinier. You guys have noticed it too. You tell me. I'm telling you, it is Prose.

Prose also has this custom skincare as well, which is so great because we all have different needs for our skin too. With Prose, it is all about personalization. You do their in-depth consultation, and they come up with your made-to-order products. There are millions of possible formulas, but the only one you need is the one that is uniquely yours, and the only one I need is the one that is uniquely mine.

Prose isn't just better for you, it's better for the planet. They're a certified B Corp, they're cruelty-free, and they're the first and only carbon-neutral custom beauty brand. They also have a 'review and refine' tool, which is so helpful. You give them feedback and it adjusts your formula and helps as your life changes.

Prose is so confident that they'll bring out your best hair and skin that they're offering an exclusive trial offer of, you guys, 50% off your first subscription order at <a href="mailto:prose.com/thatsoundsfun">prose.com/thatsoundsfun</a>. So you get your free consultation and then 50% off at prose.com/thatsoundsfun. That's prose.com/thatsoundsfun.

Okay, now back to our conversation with Pastor Kevin.

### [00:20:48] <music>

**Annie:** You taught through it in August, is that right?

**Kevin:** Back in February.

**Annie:** We did it in February. Okay, so we can link to those as well, so people can listen to

more of those. Do you want to tell the professor's story? Was it this February?

**Kevin:** Yeah. So we're in this season called Awaken, where as a church, we invite people to

fast and pray. I love it.

**Annie:** I love a corporate fast. Helps me when I'm looking around and all y'all's faces are

getting...

**Kevin:** You see hangry on people's...

**Annie:** Chiseled corner faces. I'm like, everybody's fasting. We are all fasting.

**Kevin:** There's something about the corporate fasting. We were in that time and early on

reading the book of Acts, and there was this longing for the more that God would want to do and just a hyper-awareness. I think that's one of the things that fasting does is there's a hyper-awareness of the kingdom of God, of the activity of God

around.

So we just started the fast and I was the driving up the interstate on 65 going into work and I see this car swerve and then go back and hit the median. So I pulled over, and I was on the phone with Rob Santel, chief of staff at the church. I let him

know "I need to call you back. Something's happened."

And I run over, and there's a woman who's running up in scrubs. She's a nurse, and she's running up, and we ran up to the car, and there was a man who's having a medical emergency. We prayed with him. We were unable to help him in the way that he needed help. We prayed. I thought, man, God's going to save his life, but God didn't answer the prayer in that way. I left that and...

**Annie:** So he died while y'all were there on the road?

**Kevin:** He died while we were there.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Kevin:** I went home that night... I didn't really tell anybody. I called Rea and... and I had to

go read a staff message and, you know, kind of go into the day. So I got home that night, and I told Rea, and Rea had been praying for me, but I just didn't sleep. I had trouble sleeping that night. And I'm reading through the book of Acts, and prayer is

one of the main themes. So, man, God, He met me in prayer.

The next day, I was still pretty... I was just carrying. Carrying that and praying for this man's family. I didn't know any of the details about who he was or his family. That night I was talking with Rea and I'd found out that he was a professor at a

school in Nashville. He was older man in his 70s.

And I was told and I didn't know that Rea was on the phone with Raleigh. I didn't

want to tell the kids, because I didn't want to trouble the kids.

**Annie:** Who's your college-age daughter?

**Kevin:** Who's my college-age daughter.

**Annie:** Oh, I guess you have two of them.

**Kevin:** Yeah. I have two college-age daughters.

**Annie:** The older. I forget.

**Kevin:** I have two college-age daughters. Well, Raleigh ends up... I told Rea, I said, "I

found out he was a professor, and it's likely that he was a believer." Raleigh said, "Well, what happened?" So I was like, "Oh, I don't want to trouble them." So I told

her, and she said, "Oh, Dad, can I pray for you?"

At that point, I was so overwhelmed. I got down on my knees and I just opened up my hands. And when Raleigh prayed for me, something lifted and I slept like a baby that night. I mean, I closed my eyes and I woke up... the night before I could

not sleep at all.

So I'm reading through the Book of Acts about the Holy Spirit, about prayer, and I feel like in many ways I'm getting to experience the presence and power of God in ways that I hadn't before, and it's why we're in this fasting season.

Let's fast forward. We lead through the Book of Acts. You know, I was sitting in prayer on a Saturday morning-

**Annie:** On the back porch?

**Kevin:** Well, I've got a green couch that I've moved inside when the weather was...

**Annie:** Yeah, February. Good call.

**Kevin:** I'm sitting on the couch.

**Annie:** You're like, Annie, I'm not suffering for the gospel. I'm not sitting on the winter. I'm

inside. Okay.

**Kevin:** And I just think about this man. And I was like, I wonder what's going on. And it

had been like three weeks, four weeks. And I look up on... I just Google. I find out

that there is a memorial for him the next day.

**Annie:** Oh, my gosh.

**Kevin:** ...at the school where he was a professor. I'm like, "I think I'm supposed to go." I go

to the memorial, sit on the back row. Because I want to hear about his life. I want to

know who he was, you know, more than that moment, just that.

I go listen to the service and I get a text from the provost of the school who found out that I was there. Somebody told him that I was there. He texted me and says, "Hey, the family's back in the back room. They'd like to meet you" because they had heard that I was there. So I got to pray with his wife and with his two

daughters. I mean, it was one of those moments that only God could put together.

**Annie:** That's exactly right. So when it's like, Why read the book of Acts?

**Kevin:** Because I think God is wanting to move. God is moving all the time through His

spirit. And He's wanting to move us all the time. He's wanting to-

**Annie:** He want to invite us in.

**Kevin:** He want to invite us in to be a part of it. Some of the challenging, difficult, he

doesn't want to do it in our own power and our own strength. But then He has these

moments of healing and grace that He wants to pour out in the lives of others. What we'll see in the book of Acts is that it happens through prayer. It is through prayer.

We're not going to whiteboard our way out of this thing. We're not going to... I mean, God uses good strategy, but it always begins in prayer. You know, you think about it. You'll start the book of Acts, and they go to replace Judas.

**Annie:** I think this is fascinating. This is chapter four, maybe?

**Kevin:** I think it might just be chapter one.

**Annie:** Oh, is it chapter one? I'm great at this. You're right. It is one right there.

**Kevin:** And what did they do? How did they make that decision?

**Annie:** So they proposed two men. Which the thing I thought was so interesting is they

picked two guys who had been with them the whole time.

**Kevin:** The whole time.

**Annie:** So there are these other men that we don't even know all through the Gospels that

have been there the whole time. And then it says, then they prayed.

**Kevin:** They prayed and then they did what? Verse 26.

**Annie:** Then they cast lots and the lot fell to Matthias.

**Kevin:** This is the last time we see them casting lots to make a decision.

**Annie:** Really?

**Kevin:** So once they've received the Holy Spirit-

**Annie:** They don't cast lots anymore.

**Kevin:** ...they don't cast lots anymore. They pray. They pray before they make decisions.

Annie: Wow.

**Kevin:** So they pray before they make decisions.

**Annie:** Oh, that's cool.

Kevin:

They pray anytime that they appoint leaders. Appointing leaders is a big deal. Prayer and the Holy Spirit become the way that decisions are made after that. What I would encourage people is as you read through the book of Acts, maybe every time you see the word "prayer" or "pray" we just circle it just so that we can be reminded that in the economy of God, this is the way things move forward. This is the movement of Jesus. This is the way the Holy Spirit works. It's through prayer.

Annie:

We're doing one chapter a day for the month of May. So, man, I'm going to circle every time I see the word prayer or pray. That is crazy. Before we get to the Holy Spirit showing up, which I love, how long was Jesus on earth between His resurrection and His ascension?

**Kevin:** 40 days.

Annie: The Lord loves that number.

**Kevin:** Loves the number, right? He's raised from the dead, spends 40 days, and then they have 10 days of waiting before-

Annie: You said in our Easter sermon that He sees like 500 people.

500 eyewitnesses. The thing is Corinthians gives us that, Paul gives us that number **Kevin:** that there were 500 eyewitnesses, many of them who were still alive when He was writing Corinthians.

Annie: How much younger is he than Jesus? Do you know? I can look here. I mean, they've got to be close-ish, right? Because they-

**Kevin:** They would have been contemporaries, right?

Ish. Yeah. Yeah. I think that is so... You know me and Paul. We're getting better. I'm working on it. I'm just not going to be the front of his line to visit when we get to heaven. Y'all can have your turn first. I will get him at some point. I will talk to him. B

But I think one of the interesting things in verse 4 of chapter 1, it says, On one occasion while He was eating with them... He's just always eating with them. He just eats all the time with them. It's great. So for 40 days, He's here just eating with them. Then He sends disciples. We don't do this for the whole book, but chapter two really is kind of crux for those of us who live on the earth. I mean, every time I preach from chapter two on stage, I always say, this is the same church you go to. Like, this is the church you go to, wherever you go to church. This is the original church you go to is the Acts 2 church.

Annie:

So will you tell us a little bit... Why does that chapter matter to you? On May 2nd, when we're reading Acts 2, why does that one matter?

**Kevin:** 

It's the fulfillment of the promise, right? John 16:17, Jesus promising the disciples about the Holy Spirit and what will happen when the Holy Spirit comes. So you see this movement where the temple was at the center of the faith, right? The temple was at the center, and now we move from the temple being at the center to the Holy Spirit dwelling in. So there's this movement from...

**Annie:** That's how Paul says "you are the temple".

**Kevin:** You are the temple. So now there's this movement from the presence of God being in the holy of holies, in the holiest place, that place representing the presence, to now through what we see tongues of fire on the heads of people, in languages, you see this movement of, okay, now the Spirit dwells in us. And just like Jesus said,

that was the promise. So they wait for 10 days.

**Annie:** They just sit there and wait. They didn't know it was going to be 10 days.

**Kevin:** They're praying. United prayer.

**Annie:** It's so tough.

**Kevin:** They don't know.

**Annie:** It starts with when the day of Pentecost came. It wasn't Pentecost when that day

came. They didn't know that. Luke just wrote that.

**Kevin:** They didn't piece that together.

Annie: No.

**Kevin:** What I love about this is that God is looking for some people who are willing to

wait on Him. And it's a miracle that they all stayed, right?

Annie: Right! Then nobody was like, you know what, we're done. Do you know what day

Pentecost is this year? Me neither. I'm gonna look it. Keep talking. I'm gonna

Google it while we're sitting here.

**Kevin:** You know, you think about when Jesus gave the Great Commission, they're up on

the Mount, and it says that some of them worshiped and some of them doubted.

What I love is Jesus commissions doubters. He commissions worshipers and doubters.

**Annie:** Yeah, he's all right with that.

Sometimes we're worshipers, sometimes we're doubters, you know. So you've got this collection of 120 people, some of them worship, and some of them doubt. I mean, it is a miracle that everybody's there, right? Then the spirits poured out, they received the Spirit.

One of the things that we see happen here is we've got this... we can draw it back to the Old Testament. You remember at Sinai, remember Moses comes down with the tablets, the law is given, and people have... they've taken the golden calf and they're worshiping this idol, and 3,000 die on that day. And you've got the lightning and you've got all that going on.

Well, here you have fire on the heads of people and you have the spirit is given and 3000 are added. So you've got this reversal of Sinai. You've got this reversal.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Kevin:** 

**Kevin:** 

You've got Babel where the languages were confused, right, where people are trying to build to get to God. Here at Pentecost, you have God come to man through the Holy Spirit and you have languages redeemed, right? You have languages used and everybody hears in their own language. So there's not the confusion of languages. There's languages are used to communicate.

So you have this reversal 3,000 had. And you remember when we were at the temple stairs where the mikvahs, right, the baptismals were there. And you can see how they would baptize 3,000 people in one day. Acts 2 is... I mean, the Holy Spirit shows up in power. And Jesus promised. He's like, "And you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." We get to see what power looks like.

Annie: You were supposed to go back to Israel in May, right? I was supposed to go in September. So disappointing. So hopeful that all will be well soon enough and we get to go again. But yeah, when you're standing there on the Southern Steps, you're like, 3,000 people heard Peter yelling up the stairs, and they all got saved and baptized that day. That water had to be grubby. Listen, I've done enough baptisms at Crosspoint.tv.

**Kevin:** There was less hair product back then, though.

Annie:

Oh yeah, less eyelashes to float around in the tubs. That's exactly right. One of the wild things to me... this is why I love the Bible so much. There's a synagogue leader mentioned. It starts with a G. Gamaliel? How do you say it? When you read it, you just have to look at the word and memorize it. Do you know who I'm talking about though?

Kevin:

Yeah.

Annie:

So he's mentioned I think in chapter four, where he says... they're all trying to shut down the Jesus followers. And he says, Hey, listen, when this guy got crucified, all His followers disbanded. When this guy died, all his followers... let's just wait and see. Let's wait and see. Because if this isn't God, it'll go away." Then later when you're reading, that was Paul's synagogue leader. That was Paul's rabbi.

Annie:

He studied at the... yeah. That is wild to me, the same guy who said, "Let Him go, just see what happens," in the long run, his student is the guy who sends the gospel to the world. That's cool.

**Kevin:** 

Oh, that's so good.

Annie:

I don't have a question around it. You can talk about it.

**Kevin:** 

I think it's great.

Annie:

I think it's great. I think that's wild. What do we do when things like that pop up? Do we journal that? Do we memorize that? Do we write in our Bibles? What do you do when little light bulb moments happen or connections happen?

**Kevin:** 

I write them down.

Annie:

You put everything in Evernote?

**Kevin:** 

I do, just because I want to come back to it. I love going back. One of the things I love about making a record of a history with God, when God gives you those things, is so that you can go back to them when you need them. And you can go back to them just for a reminder.

So sometimes I'll just go back to, What was I learning? What was I seeing? Especially, I do the Bible in a year, like the one-year Bible. So I do the same reading every-

Annie:

Every year on May 1st or whatever.

**Kevin:** So I'm able to go back and see, what did I learn?

**Annie:** Do you have a paper Bible you read the Bible in a year or do you read it...?

**Kevin:** Now I'm reading in a paper Bible but most of the time I read on a Kindle.

Annie: Okay, let's get to Saul to Paul. Everybody loves him. I like him. I've come around. I mean, even Luke's storytelling ability of side mentioning that at Stephen's murder,

at Stephen's... what's the Christian word?

**Kevin:** His execution. His martyrdom.

**Annie:** Yeah, martyrdom. The Christian word. Listen to me. In his martyrdom, they all

hand their cloaks. While they're throwing rocks, they all hand their cloaks to Saul. And he's right. And then it's just like, well, now Saul goes out and he's trying to get everybody. What do you know about Saul to Paul? Let's talk about him for a

minute.

**Kevin:** I don't know if there's another person where their conversion is more pivotal than

Saul.

**Annie:** Oh, I can't imagine.

**Kevin:** When I think about evidence of the resurrection, like evidence of the life of Jesus

and the ministry of Jesus, that He can take the greatest enemy of the gospel-

**Annie:** Yeah, truly.

**Kevin:** ...and take the greatest enemy and bring about conversion, and not merely

conversion, but to the degree by which his, you know, his hatred for the gospel... like, you just do the complete opposite. That same zeal that was aimed in trying to wipe out the movement of Jesus, now he's aiming all of that and more to the point

where he's like, kill me.

And then the more study, as I went through and just started studying about his... his whole life was aimed in... and there's one point where he's like, let me be accursed. In other words, let me be accursed. Let me go to hell if it means my brothers and

my sister... like that much passion and love for his people.

We talk a lot about Saul, his Hebrew name changing to Paul, which would be like

his Latin name. He was a Roman citizen, which means he had access to...

**Annie:** Saves his life.

**Kevin:** 

Saves his life, right? His name Saul means prayed for. It would have been tied to his Jewish roots and Saul who was the king. But he uses the name Paul in his missionary journeys, and Paul is a Latin, which means small. So when you think of the name that he chooses to go with, he's small. I was like, well, what did he look like?

So there's a historical account. The earliest historical account that we have of the Apostle Paul, it says, the Apostle Paul, a man small in size, bald-headed, bandy-legged, well-built, with eyebrows meeting. So he had a unibrow-

**Annie:** Unibrow Paul.

**Kevin:** ...rather long-nosed, full of grace, for sometimes he seemed like a man and

sometimes he had the countenance of an angel.

**Annie:** Wow, golly.

**Kevin:** So he had been marked by the grace of God. And he was driven. He was driven that

everyone would know the same grace that he had encountered. As you think about this movement, so we go from the temple of God, the presence of God, from the temple of God to the people, the spirit, temple to the people. Then you've got this movement from Jerusalem, where it's kind of the headquarters—the first 10 chapters is all about what God's doing in Jerusalem—to Antioch becomes the headquarters of the movement of Jesus. Then you've got this movement from Peter

to Paul.

**Annie:** I wrote that down. After chapter 12, Peter's gone from the story.

**Kevin:** I look at it as where Paul's not replacing, he's not replacing him. He's standing on

his shoulders. So it's a continuation.

**Annie:** And Luke's with him.

**Kevin:** And Luke's with him.

**Annie:** If we were watching a movie, it's like the narrator just took the bus instead of the

car. And now we're on a bus ride and the car's still going and Peter's still doing. We just don't know again until Galatians... Wait, I think it's Galatians where Peter and Paul get in a real tussle. They got a situation. Paul loves to argue with his friends,

Kevin.

**Kevin:** But he is so passionate about the Gentiles.

**Annie:** I know, which is so sweet. That's me.

**Kevin:** Which is good for us. Which is Luke. I didn't realize this until I was studying the

book of Acts this time, in that Luke's a Gentile. So he is the only Gentile author in the scriptures. And he writes a quarter of the New Testament. So what does that tell

us as followers of Jesus? That God chooses one of the authors in the canon.

Chooses a Gentile.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Kevin:** So Luke is coming with this Gentile perspective just so that... and I think that's one

of the reasons that he and Paul were so close is because Paul's like, you got to take this in. Paul included him as a Gentile in communicating this account to the

Gentiles.

**Annie:** And I just need to remember Paul and I are on the same team.

**Kevin:** You are.

**Annie:** Paul and I are on the same team. I would love a teammate who is that zealous about

going after. But there's the Barnabases... I feel like people with that amount of zeal

leave people in their wake. Barnabas, John Mark, Peter.

**Kevin:** You want to talk about Barnabas a little bit?

**Annie:** Yeah, I like that guy.

**Kevin:** We would not have a Paul if it wasn't for Barnabas, right? Barnabas is at Antioch,

God's moving, right?

**Annie:** Luke becomes a believer.

**Kevin:** Yeah, God's moving in, right? Barnabas realizes, "I need some help." So his name

"Barnabas" means son of encouragement. It's the same Greek word as the Holy Spirit. So like when you say the Holy Spirit is encouraged... like the courage of the Pericle. He is the son of encouragement. That's like the kind of stuff the Holy Spirit

does.

Annie: Oh, wow.

**Kevin:** So Barnabas ends up, you know... and it's the same word that they would use for a

coach in the Greek Olympics. So he's like coach, right?

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Kevin:** So they're like, Barnabas is this... he's this coach. Well, he sees and saw, and he

risks his reputation, he risks his influence. Because remember he's going to get the

enemy of the faith and he's bringing him in.

**Annie:** That's right.

**Kevin:** He takes a flier on Paul. And so he's this hinge person in the story that just opens

the door for the guy. So we wouldn't have a Paul without a Barnabas.

[00:43:16] <music>

**Sponsor:** Hey friends, just interrupting this conversation again to tell you about one of our

incredible partners, <u>KiwiCo</u>. Whether you're staying home or heading out and about for the summer, KiwiCo is inviting kids and kids at heart to enjoy their first-ever

summer adventure series. Y'all, this is so cute.

Kids from two years old to teens can receive six hands-on science and art project kits over six weeks. Y'all know KiwiCo has something for everyone and offers different topics for each age, whether your child wants to explore space or learn about dinosaurs. So if you're trying to think about an activity to keep them busy while you travel or something to do at home, KiwiCo is it.

KiwiCo encourages kids to get outside, to explore, and stay off their screens. Honestly, I want all of those things this summer too. There's adorable projects from their summer adventure series like the bottle rocket kit where kids build an actual bottle rocket. I really want to do this one soon with some of my MiniBFFs.

You can choose your adventure too. The summer adventure series is a personalized experience. You'll be surprised at how high-quality the materials are. It's really amazing. These are real engineering science and art projects for kids.

As a parent, it can be hard to find creative ways to keep your kids busy and challenging. KiwiCo does the legwork for you so you can spend quality time tackling projects together. There's something for kids of all ages. Convenient, personalized, you can either receive all of your summer adventure crates at once or weekly for six weeks. That is so fun to get mail like that. So build the best summer ever with KiwiCo.

Get 20% off of your summer adventure series at <u>kiwico.com/funsummer</u>. That's 20% off your summer adventure at kiwico.com/funsummer. I'm going there today to get this for my nephew Sam.

That link remember, and pretty much every other link you could ever hope for, are in the show notes below, or we'll send them right to you in Friday's AFD Week in Review. So be sure you're checking those out.

## **Sponsor:**

Okay, y'all, listen to this. A recent survey found that seven out of 10 parents lose an average of three hours of sleep a night in their baby's first year. Three hours a night, you guys? How are you doing this? How are you doing this?

Listen, based on my stories and my friends, I am hearing from the moms of littles here in the office, that totally tracks. The moms I'm friends with, my sister, it tracks. Moms and non-moms alike, you deserve quality sleep. And I know just how. Listen, Cozy Earth.

Discover the secret to better sleep with Cozy Earth's luxurious bedding products. And here is an exclusive Mother's Day offer just for our friends. If you use the code TSF, you get 35% off at Cozyearth.com. Send that link to your husband, send that link to your friends, say, "This is what you should get me at 35% off." Oh my gracious.

Cozy Earth bedding products have this temperature-regulating technology, you guys. It adapts to your body's needs and it keeps you comfy no matter what might be keeping you awake. Those same moms of littles here in the office absolutely rave about their Cozy Earth sheets.

You can also take comfort in the fact that Cozy Earth stands for the quality and longevity of their products. You can enjoy a 100-night sleep trial, 100 nights, you guys, and a 10-year warranty on all your purchases.

Treat yourself or any of the moms on your list to the ultimate comfort with Cozy Earth bedding and sleepwear, and prioritize that self-care and sleep health. Head over to <u>Cozyearth.com</u> and use the promo code TSF for an exclusive 35% off. The luxury she deserves, you guys. Cozy Earth.

#### **Sponsor:**

So one thing everybody gets to do is grocery shop. So why not do it from the comfort of your couch though? That is my ideal. That is where <u>Thrive Market</u> has changed my life. It is the no junk food, healthy grocery store that doesn't make me leave my house.

I made an order recently, I got my favorite protein shakes, some snacks. Y'all, I got those stroopwafels. Oh my gosh, they were so good. I got some soap and a couple of other things. I spent \$70 and saved \$33 and 39 cents, you guys. It is seriously so easy too because it shipped right to my door.

Plus, I love that Thrive Market carries brands with the highest quality ingredients and sourcing methods. And they have an online filtering system that allows you to sort based on what you're looking for. So if you're hunting for gluten-free or dairy-free options, you can curate your own shopping experience really easily.

Not only do I save time shopping as a Thrive Market member, but I also save money on every single grocery order. They even have a deals page that changes daily. I check it a lot and it always has some of my favorite brands like Siete and Primal Kitchen and even my favorite potato chips.

Save time and money by shopping at Thrive Market today. Go to <a href="mailto:thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfum">thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfum</a> for 30% off your first order plus a free \$60 gift. You guys. That's thrivemarket.com/thatsoundsfun.

And now back to finish up our conversation with Pastor Kevin.

# [00:48:23] <music>

**Kevin:** Remember back in Acts chapter one where they choose Matthias, and there's one

that they don't choose.

**Annie:** Yes, they don't choose a Joseph called Barsabbas, also known as Justice.

**Kevin:** Barsabbas. So Barsabbas means son of strength, like old man strength. So in other

words, he was born to a father in old age. Found this in some research. There's another Barsabbas in the book of Acts, and it is Judas Barsabbas. Some would say, well, that was Joseph Barsabbas and Judas Barsabbas, they were brothers. Not the

Judas that they had to replace.

Now, Barnabas, his name was Joseph.

**Annie:** What?

Kevin: Yes.

**Annie:** [wowie zowie] Wowie zowie. Are you about to tell me?

**Kevin:** There are some who believe that Joseph Barsabas that they actually gave him

another nickname.

**Annie:** They called him coach?

**Kevin:** They called him coach.

**Annie:** They switched him when the lot did not fall to him.

**Kevin:** He stayed in it, and rather than getting bitter that he didn't get picked-

**Annie:** My guy.

**Kevin:** I don't know for certain. It makes sense. But I like to think that instead of getting

bitter and falling off the pages, that he shows up, he's like, I'm just going to

encourage. I might not be one of the 12-

**Annie:** But I'm in it.

**Kevin:** But I'm in it.

**Annie:** Where else would I go? He probably heard Peter say, Where else would I go? He

did. He was with him all along. He was just Jesus the whole time. So then Saul, after Saul sees Jesus when Jesus messes with him on the road and makes him blind, which... okay, well, I have a question about that. But so then when Paul is being discipled by Barnabas, by coach, it is going like, hey, I was with Jesus this whole

time. Let me tell you.

**Kevin:** Yeah.

Annie: Dude.

**Kevin:** Yeah.

**Annie:** That makes so much sense how Paul knows as much as he knows.

**Kevin:** Many would say that Paul was discipled, that he was discipled. But he goes off for

three years, right?

Annie: Yeah.

**Kevin:** And he's discipled. But it's Barnabas who takes a flier and goes, come on. He has

x-ray vision to see who Paul could be. And he brings him in and takes a rest.

Annie: That is so cool. I'm reading a book on fasting and they mention how Paul doesn't

eat or drink in his three days of fasting. And apparently that's only like two times in

the Bible not to drink during a fast. I've never done that.

**Kevin:** No.

Annie: No. I was like, Kevin, what are you talking about? Am I blocking the Holy Spirit

because I'm drinking water or I'm drinking smoothie? Not smooth. I'm drinking juices? I'm drinking my Liquid IV? Am I stopping the Holy Spirit? No. The book even says this is only for extreme... like look when it happens. It's when Jesus shows up and blinds Paul. Okay, good. That was just check. Okay, check that off my list. I was just making sure it was okay for me to keep drinking Liquids. Then

Coach and Paul having a breakup is even sadder then.

**Kevin:** Why did they break up? Because of John Mark.

**Annie:** Because of John Mark. Who abandoned him and Paul couldn't handle it. Right?

**Kevin:** So Barnabas has grace for bringing him back.

**Annie:** Grace for bringing John Mark back?

**Kevin:** Mm-hmm.

**Annie:** I think that's one of my stitches with Paul is I want to be like, he did it with you,

you want to let him do it with him? There's a lot we don't know, because it's only a couple verses. But that has been a rubbing place for me about Paul. Like, you wouldn't let Barnabas bring John Marr back? It was over walking away from your

coach over?

**Kevin:** I think one of the challenges in ministry, and maybe what Paul said, is that maybe

he knew that John Mark would become the... I've always heard like, you don't hire a ministry, you do ministry. You know what I'm saying? Sometimes if John Mark wasn't at a place where... if his cup wasn't full enough to pour out, then Paul was going to be constantly having to focus on him rather than the people. We don't

know the whole story. If we get to heaven, they sort it out.

**Annie:** Well, the four of y'all get together and do a seminar where they go like, here's the

part you didn't know, and here's why. Because there is this world of like, Paul's got to go fast. I'm fast. Paul's fast. And so he's like, Silas, I can keep up with, and he's ready to run. So we're going to run. But that had to be sad for all of them, right?

**Kevin:** Oh, just heartbreaking. You see it in Timothy, you know, when Paul's in prison, he

doesn't have much time, he's like, "Hey, have John Mark bring my coat back."

**Annie:** You're right.

**Kevin:** There's this reconciliation that you see.

**Annie:** Oh my gosh.

**Kevin:** I want you to love Paul.

**Annie:** I know. Do you love him?

**Kevin:** I do.

**Annie:** Is he one of your top guys?

**Kevin:** It was in that prison where we read through the end of... And you could just... And

it's cold. And you could just... And we went to the place where he was executed in

Rome.

**Annie:** I'd never been there. That was my third trip to Israel and I'd never been where we

went to see all that stuff.

**Kevin:** We were in the prison there in Rome, and then we were at the place where he was

executed. And it was in that place that you just saw, this was a man who loved

deeply, loved Jesus, and he was willing to lay down everything.

**Annie:** I do believe that. I do believe that. And guess what? I don't have to be bros with

everybody. We don't have to like everybody's personality. There are a lot of people who don't like Peter. He denied Jesus. He cut a guy's ear off. Jesus called him

Satan. He doesn't want Gentiles to come along.

So here's the interesting thing, Kevin, is in Acts, they start calling our faith the way.

What's that about?

**Kevin:** I think that was the original way that they referred to, that were followers of the

way. And Jesus is like, I'm the way, the truth, and the life.

**Annie:** I'm the way, the truth, and the life. That is literally what I thought.

**Kevin:** So they're calling us followers of the way. And then it was in Antioch where they

said Christians they were like followers. So Christian was actually a term that was

given by outsiders. So the insider term where we are followers of the way. And then Christians were a term... followers of Christ, that they're devoted to Christ. That was the way they referred to us. So we took that on.

Annie:

I was like, Oh, the way. Jesus is the way. So they were like, we're gonna follow Him. We're gonna follow the way. We're gonna call it the way and we're gonna... yeah. I thought that was very cool. I love it. Also who knew until I read this morning, Paul's nephew is an [ax?]. Because his nephew shows up in chapter 23:16. But when the son of Paul's sister heard of this plot, he went into the barracks and told Paul. His nephew saved his life. I can get back, because there was a plot to kill him. Of course, there was. But I didn't know we knew any of his family.

**Kevin:** Annie, I've read over that verse... I'm learning stuff. I love it.

Annie: That's right. When the Bible says it is living and active, it's because we miss words

all the time. That's why.

**Kevin:** Wow.

**Annie:** It doesn't change. I thought that was fascinating. Then it feels like it ends very

abruptly. What do you think that is? Is there something that...? What do you think

that is?

**Kevin:** Let's look at how it ends. So for two whole years, Paul stayed there in his own

rented house and welcomed all who came to see him.

**Annie:** And where's there? Where is he? Rome?

**Kevin:** He's in Rome.

**Annie:** Okay.

**Kevin:** He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ with all

boldness and without hindrance. So it ends with him preaching about the kingdom.

**Annie:** Because you always picture Paul being the guy who's always traveling, but he's not.

I mean, he plants down for years, multiple times.

**Kevin:** Right. Yeah. Sometimes by choice, sometimes by-

**Annie:** Sometimes by home arrest, house arrest. This is about choice, right?

**Kevin:** But he has this-

**Annie:** In his own rented house, yeah.

**Kevin:** He has this dream, this vision of going... I mean, Jesus has told him. Jesus has told

him, I'll show you something cool. So he has this encounter with Christ in Acts 23:11. It says, "The following night, the Lord stood near Paul and said, 'Take courage as you have testified about me in Jerusalem, you must also testify in

Rome."

Annie: Oh.

**Kevin:** So he gets this word from Jesus that he's gonna go to Rome. That he'll make it.

**Annie:** The Lord stood near Paul. I mean, what a day. Hey, oh, the Lord is near. And then

Paul's saying to Luke, you gotta write this down, because the reason we're going to

Rome is Jesus stood near me.

**Kevin:** He gets a word. So that when there's this plot... Can you imagine the courage that

he had? Because Jesus just told him, "You're gonna end up in Rome." So he knows he's gonna make it. So he's got this courage of like... so when he goes through trial before Felix, and he goes before Agrippa, and when he sails for Rome, and when he... okay, this is how he makes it through the storm. This is why he has such

confidence in the storm because he's not at Rome yet.

**Annie:** Wow.

**Kevin:** It's like when Jesus tells the disciples... they face the storm... Remember, he says,

hey, we're going to go to the other side. And they encounter the man that's possessed by demons. But this is why Jesus says, you of little faith. Because they're freaking out because they think, We're about to die. He told them, "We're going to

the other side."

So when Jesus says, "You're going to make it to the other side, make it to the other

side. And so they're freaking out.

**Annie:** When he tells him, in Rome, "you're going to make it to Rome".

**Kevin:** He tells him, "You're going to make it to Rome." So Paul gets this word from Jesus,

and it's that word that he has in his pocket that pulls him through the storm.

**Annie:** This is when the shipwreck happens, right?

**Kevin:** Shipwreck, right.

Annie: And they're there for a long time, but he's not in Rome yet. So he's like-

**Kevin:** I think that shipwreck on Malta, I think that's the first healing revival that we see in

the book of Acts. They wreck the ship. They all live, which is a miracle in itself. Luke is with Paul. A snake bites Paul's hand, Paul shakes off the snake, he's not killed. The people are like, "Are you a god." Paul's like, "I'm not a god." They take him to the tribal leader. They take him to his house. His dad is sick. He prays for the tribal chief. He gets healed. And so then this healing revival breaks out on the island of Malta. People start coming to Christ. He's always on mission. He hangs

out there for a while.

Annie: Yeah, three months they're there. Can you imagine three months? That's what it says. I think I'm right. After three months, we put out to sea in a ship that had wintered, again. We. Luke's with him in a ship that had wintered in the island. And

you're like, Oh, now all these prisoners now all get to go after three months. Three months feels like a long time when you're stuck on a desert island or when you're

praying for something and it's not happening in our lives.

**Kevin:** Malta is this tiny little island in the middle of the ocean. And they didn't have GPS.

They weren't heading for Malta. They were trying to get to Rome, but God used the storm, the thing that they thought that was gonna take them out, the thing they thought that tore the boat apart. God used the storm to get them to the place that He

wanted them to be, where they could bring the kingdom of God.

**Annie:** Yes. Yeah. Golly. The Bible is so fun sometimes. I think all the time.

**Kevin:** It is alive.

**Annie:** It is alive. Okay, what did we not say that you want to make sure we say? What do

people need to be thinking about?

**Kevin:** I think look for movement. Look for movement. Look for those four major moves

that we talked about from the temple to the people, from Jerusalem to Antioch, from Peter to Paul, and from Jew to Gentile. Those are the four major movements. Look for prayer, circle word prayer. And ask God, where do you want to move in me? And where do you want to move? And where are you moving around me? And give me eyes to see the kingdom of God where you're moving, your rule and reign,

your power, your presence at work in and through my life.

There was this missionary who attends the Mount Juliet campus at Cross Point. His name is Leonard Leigh. And he goes and he trains pastors, Africa, Cuba. But he said that there was a village that he was training pastors and he taught them: I am

Acts 29. Like he taught them "I am Acts 29". He said, like, you're living this out. They ended their time together with "I am Acts 29". The book of Acts is continuing, right? And so these pastors...

You know, well, he finds out that there were some extremists that came and that killed those believers, those pastors, and those leaders who were in that city a couple months later after he was with them. So he's just heartbroken. Well, he went down to Cuba and he was training pastors and he told them that story. And all those pastors in Spanish. You know, I'm not sure. Soy veintinueve.

**Annie:** There you go! I was like, veinti. I know that part.

**Kevin:** [Hechos?]. So they're like, "I am Acts 29" in Spanish. So I'm like, we are still living out that story. And so I think that's... yes, let's study a book, but the kingdom of God is forcefully advancing and all around us. And let's look for opportunities to bring and proclaim that kingdom, that message that Paul gave his life to get it to Rome. God wants us to-

**Annie:** It wouldn't have gotten to us if it wouldn't have gotten to Rome.

**Kevin:** That's right.

Annie: Okay, one last question. Sunday, May 19th is Pentecost. What do we do on Pentecost? A lot of traditions celebrate it. They change the color of their robe. What should we pray? Do you pray different on Pentecost? Do you think different? Is there anything we should think about on Pentecost?

**Kevin:** That's a great question, and I may do things differently this year. What do you think?

Annie: I want to say to the Holy Spirit, I know what today is. I think that's what I want to do. I want to say, I know what you did. Pentecost moves like Easter moves, right? Isn't it-

**Kevin:** 50 days, yeah.

**Annie:** 50 days after Easter. I've never thought of this either. I just was thinking of it with you. My first thought is I just want to acknowledge the Holy Spirit "I know what you can do today".

**Kevin:** If he did it then, he'd do it again. Leonard Ravenhill... A lot of Leonards. He has this old, like, Pentecost at any cost.

**Annie:** Pentecost at any cost.

**Kevin:** They were willing to wait 10 days. We struggled 10 minutes, you know.

Annie: Right.

**Kevin:** But Pentecost at any cost.

Annie: I have never felt that more true than after Sunday. Pentecost at any cost. Any cost. Okay, will you pray for us as we go into the book of Acts this week and as we point toward Pentecost and point toward these 28 days of what would it look like to see

movement in our lives too?

**Kevin:** Father, thank you for Your Word. Thank You that You haven't left us alone to figure it out on our own, but You have given us Your Word, You've given us Your Son, You've given us your Spirit, You've given us everything that we need in Christ for godliness and for the mission.

Father, I pray that You would use these words that are living and active to set our hearts on fire, on fire for You, for Your name, for Your glory, God, that You would be known. I pray that wherever our lives have become about ourselves, wherever we've whittled things down to comfort and convenience, wherever we've managed to minimize, God, what You want to do. Lord, I pray that You would open up our eyes. Would You give us a fresh baptism of seeing, God? Would the fire of God fall in our hearts?

And I pray that, Lord, You would give us opportunities to see signs, wonders, and miracles. And every sign, we just say, every sign points to Jesus, that every sign would point back to You. We pray, Jesus, that you would be made famous through our lives. Would you take us deeper in prayer and in intimacy and in knowing you?

And then, God, I pray that you would expand our influence, that other people would see You and know You through our lives, and our lives leverage for Your kingdom, for Your namesake. And then God, I pray for people right now who are experiencing a storm in their lives. I pray that they would see, God, that You are with them, and that You're gonna get them to the other side so would they know Your presence, Your power, and Your promise that You're gonna get them to the other side. I pray in Jesus' name, amen.

**Annie:** Amen. Thank you, Pastor Kevin.

**Kevin:** Thank you.

**Annie:** Pastor of the Pod. Doesn't get any better than you. Thank you, thank you.

[01:06:13] <music>

**Outro:** 

Okay, you guys, are you ready for the Book of Acts? Oh my gosh, he is so brilliant. That was so fun. I am living for this series. And don't worry, we actually have one more coming.

So make sure you go follow Pastor Kevin on social media. Tell him thank you for being on the show. Follow Cross Point Church. You're always welcome to join us on a Sunday or anytime online. Come join us over on Let's Read the Gospels podcast.

Remember, we start Acts on May 1st, on Wednesday. This is the very first time we're doing Acts on the podcast. But May is also the very last month of new episodes over on Let's Read the Gospels. So I hope you will join us.

If you have any questions from this episode, just drop them in the Q&A box on your Spotify app if you're a Spotify listener like me, or send them to us on Instagram @thatsoundsfunpodcast. We'll try to answer them there.

If you need anything else from me, you know I'm embarrassingly easy to find. Annie F. Downs on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook. Anywhere you may need me, that is where you can find me.

And I think that's it for me today, friends. Go out or stay home and do something that sounds fun to you and I'll do the same. Today what sounds fun to me is I am spending this coming weekend in The State of Washington. I'm so excited, so I'm already thinking about packing for going across the country.

Y'all have a great week. I'll see you back here on Thursday with my friend, one of my favorite authors, and a really fun announcement, it's our friend Jennie Allen. We'll see y'all on Thursday.