"Continuing the Journey"

2017-18 Ministry Year Theme

Sermon ~ Acts 1:1-3, 8

1. He was only <u>just beginning</u>.

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach...
[Jesus said,] "...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

(Acts 1:1, 8)

2) Sent Forth by God's Blessing

a. We are not alone.

[Jesus said,] "...behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"

(Matthew 28:20b)

b. The <u>big picture</u> is even more than we imagine our life story could be.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.

(1 Corinthians 15:10a)

But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost sinner, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

(1 Timothy 1:16)

c. His Grace triumphs over the obstacles of this life.

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

(Philippians 1:12-14)