

Sermon 1 = A New Priority (Acts 1:1-11)

Sermon 2 = A Biblical Priority (Multiple Passages)

Sermon 3 = A Pauline Priority (Multiple Passages)

Sermon 4 = A Personal Priority

Intro

- ~ Those who've served in the military full-time have experienced a change of orders / a new priority
- ~ My father-in-law had some great assignments and not so great assignments but regardless they were his orders
- ~ He served in Goose Bay, Thailand and also Hawaii
- ~ In "It's a wonderful life" George Baily wanted to travel the world but his father's passing left him a new priority
- ~ The disciples got a change of orders before Christ ascended back to heaven - a new priority
- ~ Instead of Jesus setting up his kingdom on earth he was leaving and they were to preach the gospel to all the world

Text Outline

V1-3 = Jesus's Proofs

V4-5 = The Father's Promise

V6-8 = New Priority

V8-11 = HS Power

V1-3 = Jesus's Proofs

V1- Luke's purpose is create an account for Theophilus of the passions of Christ

V2 – Christ gave a commandment to his disciples

V3 – Christ showed himself alive for 40 days after his resurrection and instructed the disciples

- Infallible proofs

V4-5 = The Father's Promise

V4 – Christ gave a commandment to the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the HS

- Promise from the Father
- John 14:16,26; 16:7,13; Lk 24:49
- Promise of the HS in the upper room discourse

V5 – They would be baptized with the HS

- John's baptisms was with water by immersion but the baptism of the HS will be an enduing with power (Lk 24:49)
- We see the ministry of the HS is RIBS (regenerate, indwell, baptize, and seal)
- Make sure we don't get caught up on the signs aspect of Mark 16
- Signs were to authenticate the gospel message not the other way around
- The signs were inaugurated for unbelieving Israel (1 Cor 1:22)
- Tongues in Acts 2 was a sign of judgement against unbelieving Israel. Tongues weren't to celebrated as a great thing but they were actually a sign of judgement on Israel (Isaiah 28:11)
- When they heard tongues in Acts 2 it was as if the Lord is saying because Israel is so hardhearted they won't simply believe the preached gospel I'm going to have to let the Jews hear the gospel in their own language as an "attention getter" because otherwise they won't listen up and pay attention

V6-8 = New Priority

V6 – They asked Christ if he was going to restore the kingdom to Israel

- We notice that Jesus didn't rebuke them for their question but rather seems to be saying not now
- They had every right to expect this as this was an OT promise. An earthly kingdom
- This idea of the kingdom was dominant in the minds of the disciples because of OT teaching on the subject
- Gill - *They asked of him, saying, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? The kingdom had been for some time taken away from the Jews, Judea was reduced to a Roman province, and was now actually under the power of a Roman governor. And the nation in general was in great expectation, that upon the Messiah's coming they should be delivered from the yoke of the Romans, and that the son of David would be king over them.*
- Look up their references to the kingdom (Is 1:26; Jer 23:5,6; Ezek 40-48)

- The book of Matthew speaks a lot about the kingdom
- The mother of James and John asked if her boys could sit on Jesus left and right in the kingdom (Matt 20:21)
- The two disciples on the road to Emmaus said they thought it was Jesus who would've delivered Israel (Lk 24:41)
- At the triumphal entry of Christ the people welcomed Christ as if they were welcoming their new king

V7 – Don't worry about the Father's time of his return

- Don't worry about that now. Focus on what he's given you to do in the meantime
- Patience in prophecy
- *No One Knows That Day or Hour (Mar 13:32-37) 32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. 33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. 34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*
- Jesus was giving them a new priority

V8-11 = HS Power

V8 – They will receive power after the HS comes upon them in Jerusalem to be witnesses

- Power of the HS
- This power was for a specific purpose = to be witnesses of Christ
- While the HS indwells, enables the primary priority Jesus gave them for the HS's ministry here was witnessing

V9 – After Jesus instructed them he was taken up into heaven out of their sight

V10,11 – While they watched Jesus ascend two angels said Christ would return just as he left

V8 Father's Priority and the HS Power

Outline of v8

1 Power – Power from the HS enables us – Power in Sending

2 Witness – This power is to witness – Power in Speaking

3 Geographic – The power to go witness- Power in Seeking

1 Power – Power from the HS enables us is the Power to serve

~ The Father promised this power in the gospels

~ Robertson - Not the "power" about which they were concerned (political organization and equipments for empire on the order of Rome).

~ The word here

~ The HS indwells us and enables us

~ Power translates dunamis, from which the English word "dynamite" derives. All believers have in them spiritual dynamite for use of gifts, service, fellowship, and witness.

~ God doesn't send us out into the world without the power to speak and serve Christ. He's given us the HS and his word

2 Witness – This power is to witness is the Power to Share & Speak

~ Witnesses are those who see something and tell others about it.

~ This word witness is used in a legal, historical, and ethical sense

~ The word witness is Martus from which we get our word martyr

~ The Greek word means "one who dies for his faith" because that was commonly the price of witnessing.

~ So many Christians sealed their witness to Christ with their blood that marturēs (witnesses) came to mean "martyrs." Their blood, as the second-century theologian Tertullian stated, became the seed of the church. Many were drawn to faith in Christ by observing how calmly and joyously Christians met their deaths.

~ They were witnesses to the resurrection (Acts 1:22) and to the life, ministry and sufferings of Christ (Acts 10:39)

~ 8 times this word witness is used in Acts (Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 4:33; 5:32; 10:39-41; 13:31; 22:15)

~ When we look at these occurrences of the word witness we see what they were witnesses to – the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ

~ Paul affirmed this in 1 Cor 15:1-4 the gospel....3 I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

- ~ There is a sense in which believers do not even choose whether or not to be witnesses. They are witnesses, and the only question is how effective their witness is.
- ~ A witness isn't a perfect person
- ~ We have fear when it comes to sharing Christ
- ~ We may not do it perfectly, we may not know what to say, how to approach the subject but we make an attempt to speak for Christ
- ~ A Witness is simply a person who speaks for Christ
- ~ It seems implied that they will be witnesses but the question becomes how effective of a witness will they be?

3 Geographic – The power to witness is the Power to Seek lost souls

- ~ Beginning in Jerusalem, the apostles carried out the Lord's mandate. Their witness spread beyond there to all Judea and Samaria (the neighboring area), and finally even to the remotest part of the earth. Verse 8 provides the general outline for the book of Acts. Following that outline, Luke chronicles the irresistible march of Christianity from Jerusalem, into Samaria and then through the Roman world. As the book unfolds, we will move through those three sections of the expansion of the church.
- ~ Holman NT "Some have suggested that this key verse of our book may contain a three fold table of contents: Jerusalem, Acts 2:42-8:3; Judea and Samaria, Acts 8:4-12:24; ends of the earth, Acts 12:25-28:31. We cannot know if Luke had that kind of division in mind, but the book unfolds in a fascinating manner somewhat along that pattern."
- ~ Jerusalem – The homebase of operations for the disciples. Where Christ was crucified. The heart of Israel
- ~ Judea - The region in which Jerusalem was located
 - Witnessing to the Jews meant witnessing to those who held a true religion, but held it for the most part falsely and unreally
- ~ Samaria - The region immediately to the north of Judea (see note on Act_8:5)
 - Witnessing in Samaria meant witnessing to those who had a mixed religion, partly true, and partly false, Jewish and Heathen
- ~ Uttermost parts – The rest of the world (Paul's missionary journeys)
 - This phrase is rare in ancient Greek, but it occurs five times in the Septuagint (Isa_8:9; Isa_48:20; Isa_49:6; Isa_62:11; Pss. Son_1:4). Jesus was evidently alluding to Isaiah's predictions that God would extend salvation to all people, Gentiles as well as Jews.
 - Witnessing to the uttermost part of the earth meant witnessing to those who had no real and vital religion at all
 - Formerly they had been commanded not to enter the cities of the Samaritans (Mat 10:5) but now they go
- ~ There were only 120 believers in Acts 1:15 but by the end of the book there's churches & believers all over the world

Conclusion

- ~ "The pulse-beat of God's heart has an evangelistic rhythm." Sinclair Ferguson
- ~ We have many priorities in life that are important. Earn a living, provide for our families, grow in Christ, study our bibles but one priority God has given us as his children is speak Christ into this world
- ~ Can we purpose to creatively find ways to share Christ?
- ~ Give a tract at a restaurant, in a bill you mail, at the gas station
- ~ Pray for opportunity to speak Christ into our conversations
- ~ Pray for opportunity to share a bible verse or principle (I shared about ants at work regarding their work ethic)
- ~ Take cookies or a desert to your neighbor and invite them to church
- ~ Holman NT - A Chinese farmer, after having cataracts removed from his eyes, made his way from the Christian compound to the far interior of China. Only a few days elapsed, however, before the missionary doctor looked out his bamboo window and noticed the formerly blind man holding the front end of a long rope. In a single file and holding to the rope behind him came several blind Chinese whom the farmer had told about his operation. They all knew the farmer had been blind, but now he could see. He told them of the doctor who had cured him; naturally, all these other blind people wanted to meet the doctor who cured the blind man.
- ~ The cured man could not explain the physiology of the eye or the technique of the operation. He could tell others he had been blind, the doctor had operated on him, and now he could see. That was all the others needed to hear. They came to the doctor.
- ~ So it is in our Christian lives. We need not all be trained theologians. We need not understand all the intricacies of God's mysteries, nor be perfect examples of flawless Christian living. We can all tell everyone what Christ has done for us. We may not all be teachers. We may not all be like Mother Teresa. We can all be witnesses. That is the point of the Book of Acts, a written witness, a faithful telling of the work of God in the first days of Christianity and the church. *Holman NT Commentary*