

Discussion Questions

February 4, 2024

Acts: Reaching the Unreached



1. Share a time where you experienced the Holy Spirit empowering you to be a witness.
2. Discuss the significance of Jesus telling the disciples they are witnesses (using a noun) instead of just telling the disciples to go witness (using a verb).
3. Read Luke 9:51–54. Discuss how even after spending years with Jesus, the disciples could still harbor such hatred towards the Samaritans.
4. What does modern day Samaria look like for Christians today?

What does it look like for us individually and as a church body to reach out to “Samaritans” around us?

5. What practical ways can we be part of being witnesses to the “remotest parts of the Earth.?”
6. James gave the following 3 specific application questions to consider.
 1. Am I living as a Witness?
 - Does my life testify of the reality of Jesus?
 2. Who are the Samaritans I am to be a witness to?
 - Who do I avoid or lack compassion for?
 3. What is my role in reaching the unreached?
 - Am I supposed to be giving, praying, or going?

If appropriate, share what God has been challenging you as you process the questions.

Acts 1:6-8 (NLT)

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But 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."

Acts 1:1 (NLT)

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach

Acts 1:8 (NASB 2020)

..but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.

Witness: mártus

One who testifies, affirms or attests

Henry Stanley referring to David Livingstone

His religion ... is of the true, practical kind, never losing a chance to manifest itself in a quiet, practical way—never demonstrative or loud. It is always at work, if not in deed, by shining example... **If I had been with him any longer, I would have been compelled to be a Christian, and he never spoke to me about it at all.**

Dr. Kent Hughes - Acts: The Church Afire

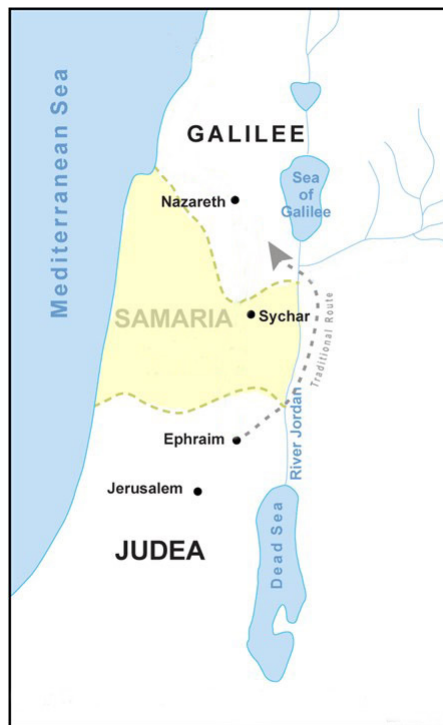
[being a witness] demands absolute, soul-searching honesty because it is so easy to deceive ourselves. Those of us with a Bible-believing heritage who constantly hear and talk about spiritual things can by the sheer weight of discussion come to believe that we live up to what we talk about, even if we do not. Being an authentic witness demands an open, tender heart that is always growing in the experience it proclaims.

Leslie Newbigin - The Good Shepherd

Having said this, however, I must say that I do not think the idea of Christian presence can replace evangelism in the life of a church. Jesus was not only himself the good news, but he was also himself the evangelist. His deeds were interpreted by words. He proclaimed good news. It was not that every deed of love had to be interpreted by a sermon, or that every teaching had to be illustrated by an act. Certainly not. But nevertheless the same Jesus who did the works of love also interpreted these works of love by announcement of the coming of God's reign. Both deeds and words were essential to his ministry. Neither was a substitute for the other. **The words interpreted the deeds and the deeds authenticated the words. So it has to be in the life of the church.**

Romans 10:13–15 (NLT)

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"



Luke 9:51–54 (NLT)

As the time drew near for [Jesus] to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, “Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?” But Jesus turned and rebuked them.

Romans 15:20–21 (NLT)

My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, “Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand.”

3 Main Applications For Today:

1. Am I living as a Witness?
 - Does my life testify of the reality of Jesus?
2. Who are the Samaritans I am to be a witness to?
 - Who do I avoid?
 - Who do I lack compassion for?
3. What is my role in reaching the unreached?
 - Am I supposed to give?
 - Am I supposed to be praying?
 - Am I supposed to be going?