

Sermon Title: On Mission Together

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Key Scripture: Acts 1:8 [NLT]

⁸ *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.*

Key points:

- We might have “**success**” as the world defines it, if we do things that have worldly acclaim – income, status, promotions, opportunities; but we’ll only achieve “**significance**” if what we do in this life has influence for eternity.
- **Point 1 – How Jesus Wants to Work In Us**
 - *Acts 1:8a - You will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...*
 - John 14:18 – But you know Him (the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit), for He lives with you and will be in you.
 - God makes his home now in us – we are the tabernacle.
 - The “Spirit-In-You” is better than “Jesus-with-You” (John 16:7)
 - You didn’t walk into God’s house today; God’s house walked into the building!
- **Point 2 – What Jesus Wants to Do Through Us**
 - *Acts 1:8b – and you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere...*
 - We are ALL witnesses.
 - A witness speaks to what they have seen and heard.
 - Witnesses are commanded to speak – to tell the truth, the whole truth.
 - Jesus does not command us to GO and do something FOR him. He invites us to COME and do something WITH Him.
- **Point 3 – Where Jesus Wants to Do It**
 - *Acts 1:8c - ...in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth.*
 - Jerusalem is our community – our town, neighborhood and city.
 - Judah is the broader region of Western PA or the Ohio Valley.
 - Samaria is geographically further and culturally different.
 - Ends of the Earth – geographically far, a foreign language and culture.
- By being part of ACAC (and the C&MA), we have the opportunity to have impact and significance in all areas – from Pittsburgh to West Africa, Indonesia, the Middle East and every place in between.
- Galatians 6:9 – *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*

Life Group Discussion Questions

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WARM-UPS

1. What is your favorite autumn activity? Did you enjoy the fall foliage this week?
2. What have you enjoyed most about Missions month this year and have you sensed anything from God? If you fasted this Thursday, how did it go?

DISCUSSION

1. How did D.L. Moody's quote hit you ("I'm not afraid of failing. I'm afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter")?
2. In Acts 1:8 the promise is "*you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you*". Have you experienced that 'Power' – how was it manifested in your life?
3. How is the 'Spirit in You' better than 'Jesus with You'?
4. Describe your "Jerusalem" to the group – who are your neighbors, what do they value, what are their hopes and dreams. What does the Gospel offer to them?
5. Of the 6 global mission areas spoken of by Dr. Schaeffer (Mongolia, Great Britain, the Balkans, Indonesia, West Africa and the Middle East, which one resonated the most with you and why?
6. Did anything else from the message or the service really impact you, and if so, what was it?

IN THE WORD

1. Acts 4:13 show Peter and John being 'witnesses' of Jesus to the Sanhedrin. What was the reaction of these elite religious leaders to their 'testimony'? How does this give you boldness to simply tell the truth when you feel 'unschooled and ordinary' like Peter and John.
2. In 2Corinthians 4:17 Paul discusses the treasure of gospel ministry – human "*jars of clay*" hold the eternal treasures of the kingdom of God.
3. As Jesus calls His Disciples in Matthew 4:18-20, notice he does not go to the top Theological Schools in Jerusalem, but to the fishing villages of Galilee. He invites them to "*follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men*". How does Jesus' invitation fit into your context?
4. Read Judges 6 and the story of Gideon. Much like those early Apostles, Gideon, isn't from a powerful region or family. In fact, he is from the weakest clan in Manasseh and the least even in his family. Yet God says, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior".

PRACTICE

Pray and meditate on two things this week:

1. The D.L. Moody quote on 'being afraid of succeeding at things that don't matter'.
2. How might Acts 1:8 and Judges 6 apply to your life, mighty warrior? Remember, you are not alone and all God asks of you is to testify as a witness to what you have seen and heard. Take time to listen for God to speak to you, what activity, place or group is He inviting you into?