

Sermon Summary 08/30/2015

Acts 1:1-8 “The First Years: the Multiplying Church in Acts 1-8” by Drew Hunter

In Short: The Bible is the place where the Church must go to calibrate its vision for mission

Sunday's Outline

- I. Introduction –every church and person needs to be intentional in order to keep our focus from being inward on ourselves. The Church in Acts experienced this mission shift in three ways:
 - A. They realized God's kingdom was dawning (1:1-3)
 1. The resurrection and ascension were extremely significant events
 2. The death of Jesus didn't derail God's plan – it was God's plan
 - B. They realized what God's mission was advancing (1:4-8)
 1. The kingdom is now here and the Spirit is coming to be poured out
 2. Jesus tells the disciples the kingdom will not come all at once but will be like a seed that takes root and grows
 3. The Old Testament points to both Christ and to mission, which will start in Jerusalem
 - C. They realized they have a part to play in this mission; their role is crucial
 1. The disciples are a witness (eye-witnesses, in fact)
 2. We have a role to play as witnesses to the resurrection, ascension, and salvation of Christ.
- II. Conclusion – this call to mission is not a command. It is an *identity* for Christians to now have

Help for Understanding & Application

- 1) What comes to mind when you think of the early church? See Acts 1-2 for context. What was the church doing? Who were the people who made up the church?
- 2) Since the book of Acts is a historical narrative written by Luke (a doctor), how are we to understand it and apply it to our lives? How does this process of understanding and applying it differ (if at all) from that of one of the other NT epistles, such as James or Galatians?
- 3) How would you explain to a new believer in Christ that the kingdom of God has already come (1:3) even though it has not been fully ushered in yet?
- 4) Explain the significance in Jesus' words in 1:8 when He says, “You will BE my witnesses...” instead of commanding his followers by saying something like, “Witness about me.”
 - a. What shifts in your heart when you consider that part of your identity in Christ is to be a witness?
 - b. Why does God involve us in His mission when He has the power to do it all without our help?
- 5) Every person in the Church has been called to be on mission together. How is your small group doing at being on mission? Give yourselves an honest evaluation. (Note: it may be helpful to distinguish between *servicing* one another and being on *mission* together) What would being more intentional about mission look like?