

# Sermon Summary 09/06/2015

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Acts 1:9-2:13 "The Reigning King and the Empowering Spirit" by Drew Hunter

In Short: God's kingdom has broken into the world through Jesus' death and resurrection, and we come under His loving rule on terms of grace.

## Sunday's Outline

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I. Introduction –Knowing Jesus changed everything for the first Christians. They were now sent to be His witnesses. This is the first week and a half after they receive the final words of Jesus. There are two main events, one at the beginning of these days and one at the end: Jesus ascends to heaven, and the Spirit comes down from heaven

- A. The ascension as motivation for witness (1:9-11)
  - 1. The ascension meant that Jesus is now enthroned and reigning over the entire universe (also referred to as His glorification)
  - 2. The ascension means that Christ is not gone but He's just involved differently
- B. The Spirit as our power for witness (2:1-13)
  - 1. The Spirit allowed a miracle to happen to spread the gospel of Jesus
  - 2. The Spirit dwells in Christians irrevocably, but He also fills people for special tasks from time to time (Acts 4:8; 4:31)
- C. Prayer is our starting point for witness (1:12-26)
  - 1. The Apostles first devoted themselves to prayer when trying to decide what to do after Jesus' resurrection and ascension
  - 2. The balance of our prayer (mission vs. personal needs) should reflect the balance seen in the Lord's Prayer

II. Conclusion – God doesn't want us to work for him; he wants to work in us and through us for the world. This is not about us helping Jesus get his job done; this is about Jesus graciously involving us in his own work of getting his mission done.

## Quotations

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"It is as if the Spirit stands behind us, throwing light over on Jesus, who stands facing us. The Spirit's message to us is never, 'Look at me; listen to me; come to me; get to know me,' but always, 'Look at him and see him, and see his glory; get to know him, and heart his word; go to him, and have life; get to know him, and taste his gift of joy and peace' (J. I. Packer, *Keep in Step with the Spirit*, 66).

"The book of Acts is the story of the acts of Christ done in history in response to the constant corporate prayer by the leaders of the church... the early chapters of Acts follow a clear pattern: first the church is pictured indoors where prayer prevails; then the church is pictured outdoors where the Spirit of Christ prevails through preaching and mighty deeds" (Jack Miller, *The Heart of a Servant Leader*, 50).

## Help for Understanding & Application

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- 1) Explain the tension (and persecution) early Christians would have experienced in recognizing Jesus of Lord of Lord and Kings of Kings (including being the Lord of Caesar).
- 2) What did the disciples do immediately after Jesus' ascension? How does this highlight the importance of prayer for fulfilling the Great Commission? Do the actions of the disciples discount the importance of the role planning and strategizing have in Christian ministry?
- 3) Do you pray more for your personal needs than for the mission of God? Who is your small group praying about that they will come to Christ? What would be different in our community/state/nation if God answered "yes" to every missional prayer we prayed?
- 4) Where do we see the work of each member of the Trinity in Acts 1-2?
- 5) What will you do this week to faithfully carry out the mission God has called us to? (Hint: step 1 must be prayer!)