

Acts 29

(Series: Reimagining Church; Message Thirty)

Acts

A. Many churches today are too anemic to impact their community for Jesus

B. But the story of God's hope for a lost world is still being authored

C. Let's go back to Acts 1

"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
(Acts 1:7-8)

1. This is the Church's Mission - a rewrite of Matthew 28:18-20

2. In Acts 2, the promised Holy Spirit shows up! The Church is born!

3. Jesus entrusts the Mission of His Church to His followers

a. A witness' job is to testify to the truth

b. A witness is someone willing to stake their life on what they are saying

...IN JERUSALEM...

"...praising God, and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47)

A. Notice the witnessing begins close to home

B. Notice who is making this happen: *The Lord added to their number*

C. Notice the Church's members are not passive but are speaking boldly

D. Notice in their homes, families, and communities, they're willing to risk it all

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." (Romans 1:16)

"So the Word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7)

E. Notice who is joining the Church! Priests! Gentiles! Romans!

F. Notice no one is assumed to be beyond the grace of God

...IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA...

"On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria" (Acts 8:1)

"Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed Christ there." (Acts 8:4-5)

A. Notice that the believers/witnesses were staying in Jerusalem

B. Notice the disciples stay and the membership is dispersed

"One of the most striking features of evangelism in the early church was the people who engaged in it. Communicating the faith was not the preserve for the very zealous or the officially designated evangelist. Evangelism was the duty of every church member." (Michael Green)

"The Church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord." (Acts 9:31)

C. Notice the strengthening of the Holy Spirit and their reverence of the Lord

D. Notice the increase in numbers. Acts is very careful about numbering people

E. Notice everyone matters to God! He created them and sent his only Son to die for their sins to bring reconciliation

...TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH...

A. Notice the Church is intentional about making sure the Gospel spreads

B. Notice one of the RL's recommended objectives is that we embrace the Biblical principle of everyone being a disciple and discipling someone

"The Word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed." (Acts 19:20)

C. Notice Luke doesn't say, "The Church grew" He says "The Word grew!"

D. Notice in Acts 28, Paul finally makes it to Rome

"For two whole years Paul stayed there [in Rome] in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 28:30-31)

E. Notice it's not about Paul, or you or me. It's about the Gospel

...IMAGINE...

A. Imagine the unimaginable. Imagine it has already happened. It has!

B. God, do it again! Use us!