

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Making Jesus Known

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 1:1-8

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2269

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Our mission as Christians should be:
 - i) Magnifying Jesus through worship and the Word.
 - ii) Moving believers in Jesus toward maturity in ministry.
 - iii) Making Jesus known to our neighbors and the nations.
- b) Jesus gave His apostles a “mission impossible.”
 - i) The apostles were a unassuming, rag-tag group of uneducated fisherman.
 - (1) No religious training.
 - (2) No financial backing.
 - (3) No public prestige.
 - (4) No political influence.
 - ii) The apostles had many obstacles in their way:
 - (1) They were coming against the imperial might of Rome.
 - (2) They were coming against the intellectualism of the Greeks.
 - (3) They were coming against the religious bigotry from the Jews.
- c) In spite of all the obstacles, Jesus commanded them to go into all the world and share the message of the Galilean peasant crucified by the Roman government.
- d) In all of God’s goodness to us, He requires of us obedience.
 - i) He has commanded us to be witnesses unto Him throughout the world.
- e) We need to repeat in this day what the early church did so long ago.
- f) We need to go back to the fundamentals of our faith.
 - i) We have been given a commission.
 - ii) We have been given a responsibility.
- g) In the book of Acts, we see that we are to be living supernaturally, not superficially.
- h) In today’s message, we will see three things we need to learn in order to make Jesus known to our neighbors and to the nations.

2) WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE HIS PRESENCE IN US (Acts 1:1-3)

- a) The hero of the book of Acts is Jesus.
 - i) Acts 1:1
 - ii) This is not the account of the acts of the apostles
 - iii) It is the account of the acts of Jesus Christ.
- b) The book of Acts was written by Luke, a physician.
 - i) The “former treatise” Luke wrote was the Gospel of Luke.
 - (1) The Gospel of Luke contains what Jesus began to do and teach.
 - ii) The book of Acts contains what Jesus continues to do.
 - (1) The Gospels contain what Jesus did in His human body.
 - (2) The book of Acts contains what Jesus is doing through His body, church.
- c) The book of Acts is about the continued work of Jesus Christ through His church.
 - i) The Lord Jesus Christ is still active and alive on Planet Earth.

- ii) Luke wrote the book of Luke to share what Jesus is doing.
 - (1) In the Gospels, it was through His material, physical body.
- iii) Luke wrote the book of Acts to share what Jesus continues to do.
 - (1) In the book of Acts, it is through His new body, the church.
- d) Colossians 1:27
 - i) We are the visible part of the invisible Jesus. We are not just imitating Jesus.
 - (1) As believers, Jesus Christ lives within us.
 - ii) Jesus is the invisible part of the visible church.
 - (1) Any New Testament church is the body of Jesus Christ on this Earth.
- e) We need to stop doing things for Jesus and start letting Him work through us.
 - i) Galatians 2:20
 - (1) Only one person has ever lived the Christian life, and His name is Jesus.
 - ii) If we are to live the Christian life, it will be Jesus living it in us.
 - (1) If you are doing things for Jesus, that's superficial.
 - (2) If Jesus is doing things through you, that's supernatural.
 - iii) The faith that Jesus has given to us is the faith we are to be exercising.
 - (1) It is not merely faith in the Son of God, but the faith of the Son of God.
- f) The Christian life is not difficult; it is impossible.
 - i) Matthew 19:26
 - ii) We need to stop trying and start trusting and let Jesus live His life through us.
 - (1) Stop asking, "What would Jesus do if He were here?" He is here - in us, His church.
 - (2) It is not me; it is Christ in me.
- g) The three miracles in the Christian life:
 - i) The new birth
 - ii) The supernatural life that we live in Christ Jesus.
 - (1) The Christian life is not our responsibility. It is our response to His ability.
 - iii) Our translation; when we're made to be like the Lord Jesus.
- h) Acts 1:2-3
 - i) Why did Jesus give the apostles this "mission impossible?"
 - (1) He knew that in Him they could do it.
 - (2) He knew that without Him they could never do it.
 - ii) What is the mission?
 - (1) Matthew 28:19-20
 - (a) We are to make disciples.
 - (i) Not decisions, but disciples.
 - (b) We are to mark disciples.
 - (i) Jesus commanded that we be baptized.
 - (c) We are to mature disciples.

- 3) WE NEED TO RELY ON HIS PROMISE TO US (Acts 1:4-8)
 - a) Jesus gave His apostles the promise of the Father.
 - i) Luke 24:49
 - (1) The promise is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
 - (a) We need to recognize His presence in us.
 - (b) We need to rely on His promise to us.
 - b) We don't have to be an intellectual to be used of God.
 - i) We are called to be a witness, not a lawyer.
 - (1) A lawyer argues cases.
 - (2) A witness simply tells what he has seen and heard.
 - ii) John 9:25
 - iii) When Jesus Christ is real to us, it is natural to witness to others about Him.
 - c) When we witness, it is not us but the Holy Spirit communicating through us.
 - d) We are not to witness about denominations, just Jesus.
 - e) The divine strategy in witnessing:
 - i) God can use you.
 - ii) God can use you with what you have.
 - iii) God can use you where you are.
 - iv) God will supply your every need.
 - 4) WE NEED TO RESPOND TO HIS PROGRAM THROUGH US (Acts 1:8)
 - a) Do your neighbors know that you're saved?
 - b) We need to first minister to our communities before we can go out to the ends of the world.
 - c) Our business is to be a witness.
 - i) Ask God to make you a soul winner, a witness.
 - (1) A witness is somebody telling others what he has seen and heard.
 - d) There is no greater joy than to lead a soul to Jesus.
 - 5) CONCLUSION
 - a) We need to ask God today to make us soul winners for Jesus Christ.
 - b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
 - c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16