

Week of Monday, October 4, 2021

Acts 1:6-8

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?" 7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." -- Acts 1:6-8 (CSB)

HOPE Journaling

H – Highlight what stands out to you

O – Observe what it teaches

P – Practice this in your life

E – Express this in your prayers

Weekly Devotional

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”

– Jim Elliot

Most everyone can think of someone from the past whose faithfulness or sacrifice benefited them in some way today. This person’s service in the past allows you to enjoy some present-day benefit. Some might think of the many servicemen and women who defend our nation, some paying the ultimate price in this service. If none stood to answer that call, this nation would look very different. We should be deeply thankful for their service.

Others might think of those people that first brought the gospel to their families. Maybe you are the first generation of your family that believes, or maybe you can trace a line of faithfulness to Christ back several generations. Either way, we have new life, real hope, and true purpose today, because another faithfully shared the gospel. We owe a debt of gratitude to those in the past who faithfully followed the command of Christ to share the gospel.

The command of Jesus to his apostles was to take this great message to the community they lived in and beyond. We know they were faithful in this service because we are reading this today. Can you imagine for a moment if these men refused to be fully obedient? God’s plans and His will are never in jeopardy of being thwarted but just imagine for a moment if those first disciples put off Jesus’ command. Meeting often to discuss what Jesus had said and taught, thinking there would come a time when others, perhaps younger or more eloquent could take this message to the lost. This was no easy task they had been given but Jesus makes it clear they will not be left to accomplish this under their own power, they will have the help of the Holy Spirit. We should be thankful these men were obedient to God’s calling on their lives and see how this task has now been handed to present-day believers. This work of spreading the gospel is not done, and we all play a part in this. Remembering that what God has called us to He also gives us His Spirit to guide us in this.

We all have people in our lives that need to hear the gospel. It begins at home, with our spouses, parents, siblings, and children, and then can spill over into the community we live in, the people we work with, and all those we encounter throughout the day. Others God calls specifically to serve in other parts of the country or around the world. While not everyone will be called to full-time ministry here in the US or long-term overseas, everyone can play a part in supporting those who do. Praying for those who are doing this work and providing financial support to help make this possible. While there are many ways to provide that financial support one great way is to give towards the Big Give offering at Living Hope. As you pray and think through what God would have you give towards this important offering this year, consider all Christ has done and his command to share this “...in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. Your giving, your serving, your faithfulness can be used by God to further the spread of the gospel and continue the work those original disciples began so many years ago. Let us truly be people dedicated to the mission of helping people find and follow Jesus.

– Contributed by Eric Foster

Read Also:

Matthew 28:18-20	[Great Commission]
Romans 1:16	[transforming power of the gospel]
1 Peter 3:15	[always be ready to share]
Matthew 9:37-38	[praying for gospel workers]
2 Corinthians 5:20	[our witness must include a godly example]
Luke 10:2-3	[pray and go]

Group Discussion Questions - Theological Considerations

- What is the great commission?
- How does the work of bringing the gospel to the world include both divine sovereignty and human responsibility?
- What is the responsibility of the local church to the Great Commission?
- What is the responsibility of church leadership to the Great Commission?
- What is the responsibility of the individual believer to the Great Commission?

Group Discussion Questions – Digging Deeper

- What does it mean to be a witness? Why is it important to include Scripture when offering a witness?
- Should every Christian be an evangelist?
- What motivates you to share the gospel?
- What discourages you from evangelizing?
- If you have gone on a mission trip, share with the group how the gospel was shared with the locals and the impact it had on you. How would you encourage others to go?
- Who in the past has made an impact in your life with the gospel? Do you have others in your life you are making this same investment in?
- Aside from people believing in the Lord and being saved, what is the goal of evangelism?
- “Preach the gospel always. And use words when necessary.” What are your thoughts on that quote?
- When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone outside your family?