



Sermon Outline & Notes | July 23, 2017 | Guest Preacher, David Martin

Sermon Title: *The Witness*

Scripture Reading

Acts 1:6–9 (ESV) — ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

1) Introduction

- a) We are all called to be “witnesses” to who Jesus is and what he has done in our lives (Acts 1:8).
- b) The Holy Spirit is a witness to Jesus saving work in us as well (Acts 5:32).

2) How to Become a Witness

- a) Be a witness to yourself, first.
 - i) “The Christian life is a Jesus-resurrection life, a life in us that is accomplished by the power of the resurrection, the Holy Spirit.” –E. Peterson
- b) You have a story to tell.
 - i) The moment we become vulnerable is the moment we become believable.
 - ii) Jesus gave those he healed and saved a story to tell.
 - (1) “As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed begged to go with him. 19 But Jesus said, “No, go home to your family, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been.” 20 So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns[c] of that region and began to proclaim the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what he told them.” (Mark 5: 19–20)
- c) Be prepared.
 - i) “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,” (1 Peter 3:15)
 - ii) Notice also in 1 Peter 3:15 that we’re not called to beat people over the head with God’s

Word, or to argue with them. Rather we're called to be prepared to respond "to those who ask" and to always respond with "gentleness and respect". While this doesn't mean we should make any effort to find our way into spiritual conversations with people, it does mean we shouldn't feel obligated to do so in an aggressive (i.e. at all costs) kind of manner.

d) Change your perspective.

i) Being a witness isn't a chore, it's a supernatural work we're invited into.

e) A Single Verse.

i) We often overcomplicate things in sharing our faith with others. Often knowing how to unpack a single verse will give you all you need to share about your own story of grace, and God's saving work through Jesus.

(1) For example, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Conclusion

Discussion Questions

- Discuss what the sermon helped you understand about the relationship between your own sin/fallenness, and evangelism. Are you willing to ask God to give you opportunities to use your story of brokenness to share about the goodness of God with others?
- In the sermon we discussed how, "the moment we become vulnerable we become believable." If that's true then what is it that holds you back from honesty & vulnerability with others, in sharing God's story of grace in your life?
- Some people interpret Acts 1:8 as suggesting that "being witnesses" simply means inviting people to church. Do you agree? As a personal witness of Jesus' saving work, are you content with occasionally inviting a non-Christian to church instead of sharing the story Jesus has written for you to share with others?
- What specifically is God asking you to do with what you've learned about sharing your faith in Jesus? Share your answer with your Community Group, or other accountability partners in your life.
- Are you willing to invest an evening to learn how to be a better witness, and how to better share your story and God's story? (yes, this is a shameless plug for tonight's evangelism workshop, 6pm-8pm at the church offices)

Prayer Points

- Pray that God would grow us individually and as a church in transparently sharing our story of God's grace in our lives with others.
- Pray that God would regularly give you organic opportunities to be his witness in your family, neighborhood, city, workplace, and beyond.

Benediction

Acts 1:8 (ESV) — ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”