Lesson Title: Tabernacles, Temples, and Churches

Key Verses: Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

Summary

The sermon emphasizes the importance of aligning divine values, particularly worship, sacrifice, service, and witness, with a structured system, such as the church assembly, to invite God's approval and presence, leading to spiritual empowerment and community multiplication. The sermon urges the congregation to recommit to these values and systems in order to experience God's anointing and transformative power.

Key Takeaways

- 1. God has values and systems that, when aligned, result in His divine approval (46).
- 2. Worship involves sacrifice, service, and witness not just singing songs.
- 3. We need both divine values and divine systems; one without the other is ineffective.
- 4. God is calling the church back to simplicity and discipleship.

Important Highlights

1. Fire as Announcement:

The fire of God is not just a sign of power but an announcement of God's selection and purpose. Just as fire appeared in biblical events like the burning bush for Moses, it signifies God doing something

2. Assemblies as Systems:

Throughout history, God used assemblies as systems to express divine values—ranging from the tabernacle to the temple. However, the fire (God's presence and approval) only rested on them when the community embodied the right values.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How can we ensure that we maintain both the values and systems that God desires, rather than emphasizing one at the expense of the other?
- 2. In what areas of your life might God be calling you to sacrifice, and how can you respond to that call?
- 3. Are thete areas of your life where you might be valuing "grandeur" over simplicity in your faith. How can you simplify your approach to following Christ?
- 4. How does the sermon address the balance of individual responsibility and divine sovereignty in the manifestation of God's power and presence? What theological tensions arise from this balance?

Practical Applications

- 1. Evaluate your personal values. Are they aligned with God's values of sacrifice, service, and witness? Choose one area to focus on improving this week.
- 2. If you're not in a small group, commit to joining one. If you're in one, consider how you might take a more active role or even lead a group.
- 3. Identify one person in your life you could disciple or from whom you could seek discipleship. Take a step towards initiating that relationship this week.