



ZEAL TO BE WITNESSES

Lesson Title: Zeal To Be Witnesses

Key Verses: Acts 1:1-11 (NLT)

Summary

The sermon emphasizes the importance of having zeal for witnessing, suggesting that believers should embody their identity as witnesses for Jesus Christ everywhere they go, fueled by the Holy Spirit, to reach all people without borders. It also highlights that this zeal stems from Jesus' love for people, urging immediate action to share the gospel before His return.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus has zeal for people, and we should model our zeal after His.
2. We are called to be witnesses, not just do witnessing - it's about identity, not just activity.
3. Our zeal to be witnesses shouldn't have borders - we're called to share everywhere.
4. The Holy Spirit empowers us to be effective witnesses.

When You Need Fresh Zeal

1. **Lack of Evangelism:** If you don't remember the last time you told someone about Jesus outside of church, it may be time for fresh zeal.
2. **Inconsistency in Identity:** If you feel like two different people when you're in church versus when you're outside, fresh zeal may be needed.
3. **Need for Platform or Permission:** If you feel like you need a platform or permission to preach the gospel, it's time for fresh zeal.
4. **Personality Type Over God's Call:** If your personality type gets to trump God's desire to use you, you need fresh zeal.
5. **Struggle with Promptings:** If there's a struggle in your mind when God prompts you to talk to someone in public, it indicates a need for fresh zeal.

Discussion Questions:

1. Jesus' zeal is our model. How does Jesus demonstrate zeal for people throughout the Gospels?
2. Discuss the difference between "doing witnessing" and "being a witness." How might this shift in perspective change how we approach sharing our faith?
3. The sermon mentioned different "borders" to our zeal (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth). What are some modern-day equivalents of these borders in our lives?
4. The sermon highlights zealous figures like Apollos, who were impactful despite limited knowledge. How can believers balance the desire for theological knowledge with the urgency to share the gospel, especially when feeling inadequately prepared?

Practical Applications (pick one for this week)

1. **Reflect** on any "**borders**" that might be limiting your willingness to be a witness. **Pray** for God to expand your zeal beyond these borders.
2. **Practice sharing your testimony** in 2-3 minutes. Be prepared to share it with your small group next week.
3. **Identify one person in your "Jerusalem"** (close to home) who doesn't know Jesus. Commit to praying for them daily and looking for opportunities to share your faith with them.