

Acts 3 –3 May 2020

“How Far Does Your Witness Go?”

Introduction

Jesus has risen from the dead and ascended to be seated at the right-hand of the Father.

But it's not time for the kingdom of God to come to earth yet. Jesus revealed a mystery to them in Act chap 1.

There will be this “Age of the Church” where God pours His attention toward THE WHOLE WORLD.

When we come to believe in Jesus Christ, His design is that thru our witness the whole world hears of God's redemptive plan for their soul.

Question is: “How far does your witness go?”

How far do you go in helping others know God?

thus

How far do you go in glorifying God w/ your life?

Let's look at 3 degrees of depths to your witness.

1st Degree of Depth to your witness: **Live an Others-Centered Life (Chap 3:1-11)**

Read Vs 1-5

1. To live an others-centered life, we have to be willing to be interrupted.
2. Peter & John were going about a normal day.
3. Are we willing to take our time and give it to others?
4. An others-centered life begins by “looking at them”.
 - a. Look at their situation, have compassion.
 - b. Look at a human being made in the image of God, have concern for an eternal soul.
 - c. Look at the ones God has put straight in your path.
 - i. You can't help everyone, but you can help the ones God puts in your path.
 - ii. “Love neighbor as thy self” (Luk 10:27)
 - iii. Turn to Luke 10:30-37

Read Vs 6-11

1. Vs 6 – Don't underestimate the value of what you do have to offer. It's immense!
2. Vs 8 – God wants to use us to meet the deeper need, the real need of other people.
 - a. This man earnestly desired bread every day.
 - b. But he really needed spiritual life bread!
3. God wants to do above what we ask or think.
 - a. Read Eph 3:20
 - b. God made him walk, therefore he'll never have to beg again!
4. As we're living for God in front of people, we're demonstrating to them an example of what they really need.
5. Our living for God should naturally affect other who come across our path.

2nd Degree of Depth to your witness: **Speak of God's Saving Power (Chap 3:12-18)**

Read Vs 12

1. When we open our mouth to witness, the focus should be squarely on God Himself, not us.
 - a. When you look at a beautifully sculpted lawn, would you go praise the riding mower?
 - b. When you read a beautifully crafted book, would you ask, “what computer did you type that on?”
 - c. Don't let anyone praise you, you're just a tool!
2. God's the One who has power to change lives.

Read Vs 13-16

1. When we open our mouth to witness, the talk should be that Christ's resurrection is the power to save and change a life.
2. Faith in Jesus is what changes a destiny!
3. Speak of His power & our need of faith!!

Read Vs 17-18

1. When we open our mouth to witness, don't use presumption or rudeness.
 - a. It's not helpful to judge why someone is in the situation that they're in....just help them!
 - b. Who was the man that the Good Samaritan helped?
 - i. Someone who fell among thieves.
 - ii. What if Samaritan would have thought, "I'll bet he's a drug dealer, that why he was beat up and left here".
 - c. Focus isn't on their past, but their future.
 - d. Focus isn't on who they are, but who Jesus is!
2. One more thought about speaking the gospel
 - a. You've heard it said, "Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary, use words."
 - b. Well, I say unto you, "Live an others-centered life to such an extent, that you get the opportunity to use words to speak the Gospel."
 - c. Read Rom 10:13-14, 17

3rd Degree of Depth to your witness: **Offer a Poignant Choice (Chap 3:19-26)**

Read Vs 19-21

1. The purpose of our living witness is to present a choice to the hearers.
2. God is offering them a chance to be converted
3. God is offering for their sins to be forgiven
4. Vs 20-21 – Jesus is coming back one day, they only have so long to make that choice.

Read Vs 22-26

1. One of two choices
 - a. Vs 23 – If you don't believe, you'll be destroyed.
 - b. Vs 26 – If you believe, you'll prove that God “sent Him to bless you in turning away from your iniquities.”
2. It's not our job to convert a soul, but it is our great joy to offer and to warn!

Conclusion

So how far to you go? How far does your witness go?

1. **1st degree – Live an others-centered life**
 - a. Are you willing to be interrupted & look at someone else's situation?
 - b. What you're offering them is of great value
2. **2nd degree – Speak of God's saving power**
 - a. Don't be distracted speaking of self, religion or church...speak of Christ
 - b. A good godly lifestyle is attractive, but what are you attracting them to?
 - i. Mormons can live an attractive life.
 - ii. Speak to them of the saving power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ
3. **3rd degree – Offer a poignant choice**
 - a. Only 2 choices in life, make sure they know
 - b. Ignoring God is the same as rebellion.
 - c. God loves them, He wants them as He wanted us.