



2022 Chain Lake District Annual Session

Make the Ask – The Answer to 500

JULY 11-14, 2022

Host Church: Mt. Zion Baptist • 120 Roberson St. • Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Host Pastor: Dr. Addis Moore

The Gospel & Explosive Church Growth

Acts 2 & 3



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This Booklet Proudly Belongs To:

INTRODUCTION

Video: Hidden Figures – Jim Webb

A careful look at the Scriptures proves that Jesus expects His church to have explosive growth – [John 15:5](#), [Isaiah 55:8-11](#). The single purpose of the church is to present the Gospel to the world – [Matthew 28: 19-20](#). It is to carry out the mission of Jesus – [Luke 19:10](#). Before Jesus went to Calvary,

- 1) He showed to His disciples the church's potential – [Matthew 9:36](#). (Multitude) (Harvest)
- 2) He identified those responsible for the harvest ([v. 37](#)); His disciples and laborers.
- 3) After the resurrection of Jesus, He then sends church to get His harvest – [Matthew 28:18-20](#).
- 4) 50 days after the resurrection then Jesus gives His church (disciples) power to successfully complete the assignment – [Acts 1:8](#). Explosive power for explosive results.



Explosive church growth occurs automatically when the Gospel is the priority of the church – [Romans 1:16](#). The Gospel saves from the penalty of sin, saves from the power of sin, and ultimately from the presence of sin.

But your question is how does that look in our present-day situation? What must we do to get explosive growth in our churches because we have been impacted by the Gospel? The reality is that most of our churches are not getting explosive growth. What adjustments do we need to make? How do we get explosive growth?

MY STORY – LUKE 14:15-24

One Sunday, as I sat in church getting ready to preach, I noticed quite a few empty seats in the sanctuary. Because I have a good idea of where individuals sit, I began to think about who was not at church and began to get angry because I felt they could have been present but chose not to be present because other things claimed their attention that had nothing to do with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



At that moment, I heard the internal voice of God speak to me and say, “those seats would not be empty if you would go after who I told you to go get the harvest. He said to read [Luke 14](#) about the great supper. Stop worrying about those who make excuses and go get those with no excuses. Go get those that

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I have already gotten ready, and they will gladly come. The Gospel carries relief and solutions. Go get people with problems – [Matthew 11:28-30](#).

When I read [Luke 14:21-23](#), I could not help but compare it to [Luke 4:18-19](#). The two passages were similar:

- 1) Focus on who Jesus focuses on (the poor, lame, brokenhearted, captive, blind, and oppressed).
- 2) Go where Jesus tells us to go (streets, lanes) outside the church building in the mainstream of life where problems are.
- 3) Do what Jesus tells us to do (bring them in, compel them to come).



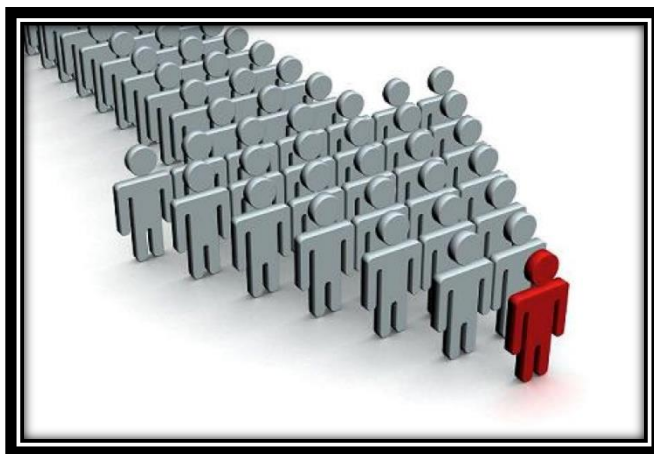
The first response to the Gospel in the book of Acts was explosive growth when the promise in [Acts 1:8](#) was fulfilled in [Acts 2](#). The presence and power of Jesus were magnified through 120 people instantly – [Acts 2:1-4](#).

- 1) The church was filled with the spirit ([vs. 4](#)). To have explosive growth, the church must be controlled by the Holy Spirit.

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- 2) The church's response got the world's attention (vs. 6-7, 12-13). Verse 4 indicates that they spoke as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. When we say what Christ directs, the world pays attention.
- 3) The preaching of the Gospel was the answer to the world's confusion. They talked about Jesus only (vs. 22-24, 36).
- 4) The world was convicted by the message of the Gospel (v. 38).
- 5) There was an explosive response to the Gospel, and the church exploded (v. 41).



But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.

James 1:22 NLT

Thank you for your submission and application of God's Word.



HIDDEN FIGURES CLIP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Hidden Figure Questions – Jim Webb

1. What did Jim Webb say to Harrison about what is dangerous? _____

2. What did Webb say about justifying a space program? _____

Purpose Application Questions:

1. When thinking about the purpose of the church, how do inaction and indecision hinder purpose?

2. How can we, as believers, justify a church that does not accomplish God's purpose?

Hidden Figure Questions – Harrison

1. When Harrison asked Katherine – “Do you know what we are doing here?” what was her answer?

2. Why did Harrison say that Katherine's report was obsolete? _____

3. What was Harrison looking for Katherine and the others in the room to do? _____

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4. What did Harrison say would not happen if the team did not produce math that did not exist?

5. Where did Harrison say he was in his mind?

6. What did Harrison say he did not need any more of?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the church's purpose?

2. How fast are things changing?

A. Are we trying to do what was done or are we trying to achieve the purpose?

B. Will what we are currently doing achieve the purpose? _____

3. When you think about the purpose of the church, where are you? Does your current behavior exhibit that you understand the church's purpose or your purpose?

4. Purpose is about where we are going, not about where we are. Expand your view to see the future and then create the future through your purpose. Now what do you see even in the midst of the pandemic? _____

5. In these pandemic times, what does the church not need more of? _____
