

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning 5-25-25
Christianity 103 – Message 1 Part 3
The strategy, the plan – be a Witness!

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

1) We spent time breaking down and seeking to understand Acts 1:8.

a) “but” – signaled a change in direction.

b) “ye shall receive power” – The power of Christ present and operating in the Church.

c) “ye shall be witnesses” – the power is to enable you to be a witness.

2) The target in verse 8.

a) Jerusalem – it is their home. Begin there.

b) Judea – the region. Take Jesus throughout the state of Virginia.

c) Samaria – Go to the places that are out of bounds, off limits, despised.

d) Uttermost – Wherever there are people, go and tell them about Jesus.

3) Is it our responsibility to be a witness?

b. Taking a look ahead:

2. Is Jesus really coming again? Acts 1:9-11

a. What do you think?

1) This is something we say and know is in the Bible. Does that mean everyone believes it.

b. Jesus finished sharing with them. Verse 9

1) Jesus’ last statement in that moment was verse 8.

a) “while they beheld him, he was taken up”

b) John 16:5-15 –

2) Jesus is in heaven today. Our Savior is –

a) The interceding High Priest. Hebrews 4:14-16

b) Advocate – I John 2:1

c) Jesus will build His Church. Matthew 16:18

c. They encountered two angels. Verses 10-11

1) “looked steadfastly” – looking intently at Jesus as He ascends.

2) “two men stood by them in white apparel” – these are angels.

3) They state a promise here – “...shall so come in like manner...”

4) Matthew 26:64 and Revelation 1:7.

5) Jesus is coming again, and you need to be READY!

3. What did they do next? Verses 12-14

a. They returned to Jerusalem.

1) You see obedience here. Luke 24:49

2) What did they do while they waited.

a) Luke 24:52-53 –

3) Verse 13 – “abode” speaks of their time there being temporary.

4) Verse 14 – They are spending time praying together.

a) The members of Jesus’ family did not believe in Him while He was on the earth, but they did come to believe in Him after the resurrection.

b) Take note of what you see here. Unity! “with one accord”

4. Peter begins to speak. Acts 1:15-26

- a. It was just a matter of time before someone spoke. Verse 15
 - 1) "in those days" – likely just a few days later.
- b. Verse 16 –
 - 1) "Men and brethren" –
 - 2) Peter speaks of Judas here and how that the scripture must be fulfilled.
 - a) He said that David "spoke before concerning Judas". Did David actually name Judas?
 - 3) Psalm 69:25 –
 - a) An imprecatory Psalm.
 - b) A part of what Peter quoted in Acts 1:20.
 - 4) Psalm 109:8 –
 - a) A part of what Peter quoted in Acts 1:20.
 - 5) Psalm 41:9 – Does this verse sound familiar? John 13:18-19.
- c. Verse 17 –
 - 1) Peter said of Judas – "numbered with us and had obtained part of this ministry."
 - a) "numbered" – simply means that Judas was a part of their group.
 - b) "ministry" – a reference to the work done.
5. Tares and the wheat. Matthew 13:24-30 and explained by Jesus in verses 36-43.
 - a. Breaking this down.
 - 1) Verse 24 – "man" is revealed in verse 37 to be the "Son of man", Jesus.
 - 2) Verse 24 – "good seed" is revealed in verse 38 to be "the children of the kingdom."
 - 3) Verse 24 – "field" is revealed in verse 38 to be the "world".
 - 4) Verse 25 – "his enemy" is revealed in verse 39 to be the "devil".
 - 5) Verse 25 – "tares" is revealed in verse 38 to be the "children of the wicked one."
 - 6) Verse 30 – "harvest" is revealed in verse 39 to be the "end of the world".
 - 7) Verse 30 – "reapers" is revealed in verse 39 to be the "angels."
 - b. It is applicable today:
 - 1) We see that God is planting true, real believers in various places in the world to bear fruit. At the same time the enemy, the devil, is sowing tares among the wheat (believers).
 - c. What is a tare?
 - 1) "tares" – something that is sowed that looks like the real thing but is not and does not bear fruit.
 - 2) "tares" – the real hypocrite in the Church for they resemble Christians –
 - a) Jesus puts them on notice in that parable that the day is coming when the truth will be made known. Verses 29-30.
 - 3) This hypocrisy is rooted in the work of Satan that result in what is called counterfeit Christianity.
6. Coming to the table.
 - a. Let's prepare to come to the Lord's table together.