

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 5-11-25
Christianity 103 – Message 1 Part 2
The strategy, the plan – Be a Witness

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) We started a new journey together last week.
- 2) Through Acts we will see the history of the Christian church, the spread of the Gospel and the mounting opposition to it.
- 3) We were also confronted by the radical change we can see in Paul's life.
- 4) Keep in mind that the Book of Acts is a transition from the Old to the New Covenant.

b. Taking a look ahead: Remember last week...

- 1) Verse 3-5 – a reminder of the promise of the Spirit.
- 2) Verse 6-7 – Jesus turned the disciples' attention to this moment and their purpose.
- 3) We see that purpose in verse 8.

2. The strategy, the plan – Be a Witness.

a. Remember what we saw together:

- 1) Verse 8 reveals God's heart in this. The Passion of His heart is recorded in John 3:16.
- 2) God is providing the enabling power of His Spirit in you.
- 3) The Ministry of the Holy Spirit – Baptism of the Spirit, Indwelling of the Spirit, Sealed by the Spirit and Being filled/controlled by the Spirit.
- 4) Witness – one who reveals what they have seen, what they know to be true.

b. The basics of the strategy. Verse 8

- 1) "But" – signals a change in direction.
 - a) The Gospel of Luke gets the story started and Acts is the sequel.
 - b) "It is not for you to know".... "But" this is your responsibility.

c. Who has this responsibility?

- 1) Specifically, here, the disciples.
- 2) They have the responsibility, but do we?

d. This "power" is significant. Verse 8

- 1) "But ye shall receive power..."
 - a) "dunamis" – strength, ability, power. The power of Christ invisibly present and operative in the Christian church.
 - b) Not a physical power but a supernatural power.
- 2) When does this power come upon you?
 - a) When the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
 - b) The evidence – the presence of the Holy Spirit in one's life is evidence that they belong to Jesus.
 - c) The evidence – the presence of the Holy Spirit indicates that you have been given power to be a witness.

3) Let's connect two key phrases:

- a) "You shall receive power" and "you shall be my witnesses."
- b) The power is the cause, the effect is that you are going to be His witness.

e. Remember that words matter when you study the Word. Verse 8

- 1) What is a witness? The word "martus" – one who testifies for one. To serve him by testimony.
- 2) A witness is someone who has experienced something.

f. Identify the target. Verse 8

- 1) In Greek, “both” which is “te” indicates the beginning of a series.
- 2) Jerusalem – what do we know about Jerusalem at this time of this statement?
 - a) Where is our Jerusalem?
- 3) Judea – how can we understand this?
- 4) Samaria – this is between Judea and Galilee.
 - a) John 4:9 –
 - b) Why was there tension between the Jews and the Samaritans?
- 5) Uttermost – the inhabited earth.
 - a) Wherever there are people, go and tell them about Jesus.
3. Today’s Take Away:
 - a. Settling the debate.
 - 1) Is this our responsibility today?
 - b. The Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20
 - 1) “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
 - 2) “Go ye (the disciples) therefore, and teach all nations” Who are the nations made up of?
 - 3) “baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” –
 - 4) “teaching them” (who is them? The people of the nations? Jews and Gentiles?)
 - a) What are they to teach?
 - 5) “teaching them (the people of the nations) to observe”
 - a) Observe what?
 - 6) “whatsoever I have commanded you” – When Jesus said this, did He know what He would say in Acts 1:8?
 - c. Time is running out.