

HANDOUT PART 3 PREPARING FOR HARVEST ACTS 1:8

This week we are going to look at the Last Thing Christ said to His Disciples Just as He was to Ascend Back into Heaven. *This Was His Final Instructions to the Church.*

- Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and You Will Be My Witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the Ends of the Earth.”

KEY#1: Jesus Makes clear that being a Witness is Not a Choice, It's “Our Identity” in Christ!

- **Being a Witness for Jesus Christ is Not an Option...It's His Expectation!**

KEY #2 The Question Is NOT, “Will You Be A Witness?” The Question is...What “KIND Of Witness” Are We Going to Be?! How We Answer this Question...Determines How God Will Use Us for the Harvest.

- How often we convince ourselves that “We have a Choice” to Witness or Not to Witness!
- But the awkward truth is that those who have chosen to Not be a Witness have Actually Chosen to be a Poor or Negligible Witness!

Jesus Made it Clear that He Expects Us to Share the Gospel...Because It Is Only His “Living Word” that Will Penetrate a Persons Heart and Draw them to Jesus!

POINT: Every Relationship Is A Divine Opportunity...God Has Given Us to Share the Gospel!

- However, to Spiritually Capture the Hearts and Souls of Family, Friends, Coworkers, Neighbors and Acquaintances Requires They See Something Different in Us.
- When You or I Go through Extreme Difficulty...How We Trust God in the Middle of it...Speaks Loudly to those Who Watch Us...And It Points Others to Christ!

In the Book of Acts, We See that what made the Disciples effective Fishermen for the Souls of Men was that They Prayed Expecting God to Move Through the Situation!

- Acts 1:14 – “They All Joined Together Constantly in Prayer...”
- Acts 2:42 – “They Devoted themselves to the Apostles’ Teaching and to Fellowship, to the Breaking of Bread and to Prayer.”
- Acts 4:23 –After being threatened to Never Speak of Christ again, it says “On Their Release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. When they heard this, they Raised Their Voices Together In Prayer to God.”

KEY #3: The Key To A Successful Harvest...IS PRAYER!

- As We Pray...God's Holy Spirit Directs Us to Those Who are Ready to Receive His Truth & Respond! And We Have the Joy of Leading Them to the Lord! 😊

POINT: Prayer is The Instrument that God Uses to Prepare Hearts and To Empower Us to Share the Gospel So The Holy Spirit Can Do His Sovereign Work of Salvation.

- Prayer Bridges Human Effort and Divine Power by Shifting the Focus from Human Persuasion to The Holy Spirit, Using Gods Word to Penetrate Hearts for Salvation!

Acts 4:31 Prayer Service: “AFTER THEY PRAYED, the place where they were meeting was SHAKEN. And they were FILLED with the Holy Spirit and SPOKE THE WORD OF GOD BOLDLY!”

Point>>If You have a Family Member who is Screwing up their life, **PRAY** for them...If You have a Neighbor Causing Trouble in the Neighborhood, **PRAY** for them...If You have a Co-worker with No Moral Compass, **PRAY** for them. Pray that God Will Make Their Hearts and Share God's Word.

To be an Effective Witness We First Need to PRAY...And Then We Need to SHARE GOD's TRUTH. God the Holy Spirit Prepares their Heart and Ours to Share the Word!

Here's My Observation – We Make Sharing Christ Harder Than It Really Is! We Give A General Testimony to What God Did for the World...And Then A Personal Testimony of What He Has Done for Us.

Acts 4:8-12 Provides Us A Clear Story of What God Did to Save Us Through Jesus Christ. *The Message Paraphrase Provides Us A Clear Story of What God Did to Save Us Through Jesus Christ. "With that, Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, let loose: "Rulers and leaders of the people, if we have been brought to trial today for helping a sick man, put under investigation regarding this healing, I'll be completely frank with you—we have nothing to hide. By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the One you killed on a cross, the One God raised from the dead, by means of his name this man stands before you healthy and whole. Jesus is 'the stone you masons threw out, which is now the cornerstone.' Salvation comes no other way; no other name has been or will be given to us by which we can be saved, only this one."*

God's Love and Sacrifice For All People...Is A Story Of GRACE-God's Unmerited Favor!

- John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Ephesians 2:8-9 makes clear it is not by works but through Faith in what Christ did On the Cross.

Once We Share What God Did For All Mankind... We Then Can Share, As A Witness, What Jesus Has Done and Continues To Do for Us Personally!

- Remember>>Each of Us have Our Own Unique Story...And God Wants to Use Us to Be Witnesses to His Faithfulness as we go through our Life's Journey.

I Love How People Responded When Christ Met Them Right Where they Were At. The Blind Man, the Women at the Well and so many more as they responded to what Christ did in their lives!

- When they heard Jesus Many of them Believed...And their lives were changed!

In the Movie "Schindler's List": Businessman Oskar Schindler (Liam Neeson) arrives in Krakow in 1939, ready to make his fortune from World War II, which has just started. After joining the Nazi party primarily for political expediency, he staffs his factory with Jewish workers for similarly pragmatic reasons.

When the SS begins Exterminating Jews in the Krakow Ghetto, Schindler arranges to have his workers protected to keep his factory in operation, but soon realizes that in so doing, he is also saving innocent lives. Toward the End of the Movie, Oskar Schindler physically Collapses as he Wrestles with the idea that he could have done more to save oppressed Jews from the Nazi regime's death camps.

The moment occurs as Schindler and his wife walk toward the car, and Rabbi Levartov hands him some papers. "We've written a letter trying to explain things," Levartov says. "In case you're captured. Every worker has signed it." Schindler looks at a long list of signatures below the text. And says, "Thank you,".

His longtime assistant, Itzhak Stern, then places a gold ring in Schindler's hand. Schindler notices an Inscription on the Ring. "It's Hebrew," "It says, 'Whoever Saves One Life, Saves the World.'"

Let Me Close With this Challenge>>>When the Rapture Comes "In the Twinkling of an Eye" Every One of You that Knows Christ as Your Personal Savior will be Taken into Eternity...However...Your family, Friends, Neighbors...Who do Not Know Jesus Will be Left Behind... **ARE YOU OK WITH THAT?**

"LIFE" POINT: Being a Witness for Jesus Christ is NOT An Option...It's An Expectation!