

equipping us for the Kingdom work of God and what is that work? Witnessing. Witnessing involves sharing our faith and working for justice and peace in our world. God's power enables the transformative witness to take place in the lives of others. Have you ever felt God's power within you? Can you imagine what that power would feel like? Write your thoughts here.

Thursday, May 28

Worship specialist, Cathy Townley, offers 10 perspectives or observations for making worship changes in a church. The three we considered during the message were: 1) our church's mission field is people we can realistically reach out to, who are in our church's back yard, 2) it is easier to reach a new mission field that is already represented in your church, even if that representation is small and 3) every church has two categories of ministry: ministry WITH and ministry TO. Reflecting on these three observations in connection with Jesus' words that we are to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, all Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth; it makes sense that the starting point of witnessing in the world is the neighborhoods closest to our church. What are your thoughts? Write them here.

Friday, May 29

Read once more Acts 1:1-11. The final scene in this passage is that of the disciples staring upwards into the heavens. It's nearly comical as two angels appear to ask the disciples what they are doing and then assures them that Jesus will return. But in the meantime, the message is clear; there is work to be done! The work of the church begins in the disciples' backyard (Jerusalem) but it extends to the ends of the earth. There is a certain detriment to the mission and ministry of the church if there is no sense of urgency. Therefore it is helpful to envision those whose lives we can impact with the good news of Jesus the Christ. Let the witnessing begin!

Message Notes – May 24, 2020

The Right Perspective*

- I. Have you ever had a project that you had to get done and experience what we call in our home perfection --- _____?
 - A. No matter what the task, we all need a place to _____!
 - B. The disciples must have experienced something like that – _____ are they to do and _____ should they begin?
 - C. These first verses of Acts make it clear that what Jesus had begun, was to _____ through his successors – his chosen disciples.
 - D. Jesus tells his disciples that they need to wait for the Spirit's _____.
- II. Jesus tells the disciples that once the Spirit has come upon them and empowered them; they will be his witnesses in _____, all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the _____ (v. 8).
 - A. Three observations from Cathy Townley as a means to discover where to start when creating a worship service to meet the needs of the _____ we serve.
 1. First is our church's mission field is people we can realistically reach out to, who are in our church's _____.
 2. Second, it is easier to reach a new mission field that is already represented in your church, even if that representation is _____.
 3. Third, every church has two categories of ministry: ministry _____ and ministry _____.
 - B. What that means is that when we are looking for a place to start witnessing, we begin with our

*Acts 1:1-11 and Romans 15:7-13

- _____ – our own backyard.
- C. What I've come to believe my friends is that creating a target is a matter of _____ with others.
1. It's an _____ of affinity. We all can reach out best to others who are like us.
 2. While I hope you would extend an invitation to our church to anyone, you are more likely to invite others who are _____ you.
- III. Here's my take on focusing on a particular group of people to welcome into our church: You have to start _____!
- A. Focusing our outreach on a particular group of people will help us gain the _____ necessary to reach other groups of people.
 - B. The final scene from this passage in Acts' first chapter is the disciples gazing upward to where Jesus ascended into the _____.
 - C. A lot of _____ still do that.
 - D. Jesus will come back, but for now Jesus is still at work, and he chooses to do that work in us and through _____.

Daily Meditations and Study Guide

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, May 25

Have you ever had a big project or task that needed to get done but it seems so daunting that you didn't know where to begin. Pastor Jack called this perfection paralysis. We want to do a good job and that alone causes hesitation, but the task seems so monumental you really don't know where to begin. Sometimes the work of the church is like that. We want to do our best for God's Kingdom and we're asked to be witnesses "to the end of the earth!" How do you feel about the task of witnessing for Jesus

the Christ? Overwhelmed? Confused? Wondering how and where to start? Contemplate these questions and write your thoughts here.

Tuesday, May 26

Read Acts 1:1-11 and Romans 15:7-13. Luke wrote both the Gospel that bears his name and the book of Acts. It is clear in the first few verses of Chapter One of Acts that Jesus had spent 40 days with his disciples after his resurrection. Why 40 days? Forty is an important number in the Bible because it's a number of preparation. Noah was in the ark 40 days; Israel was in the desert 40 years; Jesus was tempted for 40 days. All are precursors to a new beginning.

Those 40 days of instruction that Jesus offered his disciples places Jesus squarely within the traditions and narratives of the Hebrew people and prepares the disciples to continue Jesus' work. Furthermore, those first disciples could now bear witness to the reality of the resurrected Jesus! You could read some of the last verses of Luke's gospel or the passage from Romans to appreciate the breadth of Jesus' mission. Jesus wanted the disciples to witness to both Jews and Gentiles. What a task! What instruction would you want to be able to fulfill Jesus' call to witness to the ends of the earth? Think about these questions and write your ideas here.

Wednesday, May 27

Read Acts 1:1-11. Jesus, after spending 40 days with the disciples asked that they wait in Jerusalem until they have been filled with the power of God's Holy Spirit. We need to know that "waiting upon the Lord" is not a passive activity, but an active one. Times of waiting are times of letting God's power grow within us,