



The Mission of God: Living Witnesses

"And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them, It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; 8 but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 1:6-8

God has always used a special group to be his witness. It could argued that is the *Missione Dei* or Mission of God given to his people.

The primary function of is people was to be...

- A _____ NATION Ex 19:4-6 NIV
- A _____ NATION Lev 20:26; Deut 7:6; 26:18-19
- _____ IN YHWH's way Deut 4:6-8
- _____ AS YHWH loves Deut 10:12-19
- _____ YHWH's blessing Ps 67:1,2 1 Kings 8: 41-43

God's gracious presence in the life of Israel becomes an attractive sign to the nations

I. WITNESS IN _____ (Acts 1: 1 NIV)...we are drawn to

Using model of Jesus' Mission at the of beginning- with The Gospel of Luke was "inherently about what Jesus did and taught" Luke reminds his readers in ******(Acts 1: 1 NIV)..

Just as the Holy Spirit anointed, inaugurated and empowered Jesus' ministry in Palestine (Lk 3: 21-22; 4: 1, 14, 18),
so then....

Spirit _____ & _____ the church in her launch and sustains her in its mission from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth (Acts 1: 8; 2: 4, 17; 4: 31,).

- According to the promise: Acts 1:7,8
- Witnessing to his acts. Luke 24:48
- His saving power. Acts 4:33



II. WITNESS IN _____ (Acts 2: 43; 4: 30; 5: 12; 6: 8; 14: 3; 15: 12).

Such acts serve to authenticate the message of the apostles and evangelists, confirming the presence of the Spirit in their ministry. In Acts, the word of God takes the lead and the mighty works of God play a vital supporting role.

III. WITNESS IN _____ Acts 2:42-47

Four Hallmarks of a communities life together:

1. “_____” (koinōnia), a word that occurs within Acts. In Luke’s world, koinōnia could refer both to people participating in something together, as well as the relationship they share as a result of that participation.
2. “Breaking _____” in Acts 2: 42 refers to the disciples’ practice of sharing common meals. Later we hear that the believers break bread on a daily basis “from house to house,” and that these meals are joyous celebrations (Acts 2: 46). Jesus’ pattern of eating with all sorts of people (see Lk 5: 29-32; 14: 12-24; 19: 1-10).
3. “Spending _____” was something early believers did daily in the temple precincts, where during temple meetings may have involved bearing witness (see Acts 2: 47; 4: 1-2; 5: 20, 25, 42), as well as worship and prayer.
4. “_____ God” (Acts 2: 47) probably marks both their worship and their entire life together.

Conclusion

The book of Acts could be called and seen as the blueprint for mission. The account of the church’s early beginnings is for all intents and purposes is realization of the mission of God. We see that even now as Covid-19 has transformed the traditional view of what it means to be the church an idea previously grounded in Catholicism, our understanding must be realigned to embrace the vision that God had from the beginning. Just as Paul identified the marital relationship in its equivocal blueprint of Christ and his church. The story of the early church is the blueprint for today’s modern church.