

Acts Bible Study – Session 2

*D. He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.
... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

A brief review ☺

When you read or hear of the Kingdom of God/heaven, discuss what now comes to your mind.

Describe the work of the Holy Spirit. Include the means through which he works.

Keeping in mind the discussion of the Holy Spirit and the means through which he works, discuss the obvious implications for our lives as Jesus' witnesses.

In answer to the disciples' question about the timing of the coming of the Kingdom of God/heaven, Jesus answered:

*He said to them:
"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.*

Read the following Scripture passage about the kingdom of God/heaven. Be ready to discuss application to yourself, not as we most often do, as one on whom the seed is being cast, i.e. one who is hearing the message. Rather, apply it to yourself as one who is casting the seed, i.e. proclaiming the message.

Matthew 13:1-11, 16-23

*... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.*

Read one of the following Scripture passages. Mark with a bookmark in your Bible which passage you read as we will be referring to each a number of times to discuss the following points:

1. brief review of the content of your selection, who, what, when, and where
2. cost to the witness,
3. the message content,
4. the response to the message,
5. the beginning point and emphasis of the message,
6. the part of the message that got the listener's attention, good or bad,
7. who was bringing those to faith who came to faith.

Acts 2:36-47 – in Jerusalem

Acts 4:23-31 – in Jerusalem

Acts 7:51-8:1 –from Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria

Acts 8:4-25 – in Judea and Samaria

Acts 9:23-31 – from Judea and Samaria to the ends of the earth

Acts 10:23-48 –outside of Judea and Samaria, Peter sent to Caesarea (the ends of the earth)

Acts 13:1-12 – The church at Antioch sends Saul and Barnabas to the “ends of the earth”. Saul is no longer referred to by his Hebrew name. He refers to himself from this time on by his Roman (Greek name actually, the language which was the most universal language of the day, likely given early in his life) gentile name, Paul.

Acts 16:11-40 – Lydia and the jailor

Acts 17:16-34 - to the ends of the earth

Acts 18:1-27 – growth in the Word among the laity

Acts 24:14-27 – before rulers in the secular world

Acts 28:17-31 – Paul’s witness rejected by the Jews living in Rome and being “boldly and without hindrance” preached and taught to the Gentiles. This is when Paul wrote the letters to the Christians in Galatia, Ephesus, Colosse, and Philippi.

*... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.*

Discuss the following:

1. The meaning of the word “witness” and the role it plays in our lives here on earth. Turn to Luke 9:18-27 as we discuss this.
2. How does the Kingdom of God/heaven grow today?

3. Where are our Jerusalems, Judea and Samarias, and ends of the world? *See map*
😊
4. What changes from location to location? Reference *Listen. Learn. Lead (to Jesus)*
5. What stays the same?
6. Who/what alone is responsible for the response to our witnessing?
7. What will be the opportunities to be blessed with power from the Holy Spirit to be a bold witness of Jesus and all he's done for us?

Additional available resources for further study, edification, and being “prepared to give an answer for the hope you have”:

The Story of God's Love

Women's Ministry Zoom Bible studies

resources available on the Women's Ministry page of the WELS website including Bible studies by women and for women reviewed by former professors from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, and Martin Luther College, devotions

Advent by Candlelight

webinars addressing current concerns of Christian women today, and more

See the Women's Ministry and Adult Discipleship sections of the WELS website, NPH website, and talk to your pastor for other helpful resources. Somehow, spend time regularly being empowered by the Holy Spirit through reading Scripture and worship.

Closing Prayer – adapted from Ephesians 6:10-20, 23