

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of February 13th, 2022

Sermon Series: Book of Acts

Sermon: The Church Keeps Moving Forward (Acts 11:19-26)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- What creature or creepy crawler are you most afraid of? What would happen if you were alone in a room with it?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

I. Pressure Produces Preaching (v. 19-21)

- Under great pressure, literally being pushed out of Jerusalem, many people stay committed to preaching the Gospel. What pressures do you have in your life that keep you from boldly preaching the truth of Jesus?
- Where do you feel the most pressure from when you share the Gospel (Work, family, friends, etc.)?
- Have you ever been to a church that only preached to Christians - a church that left the world outside and never reached out to them? What do you think that church could have done differently to bring Jesus to those people?
- When is a time that you felt persecuted for sharing your beliefs? What's your definition of persecution? How is your definition comparable to the persecution of Stephen? How can you use the pressure that you feel as motivation to tell people about Jesus?
- Even today, we're scattered all over the place and experiencing all types of pressures. How can we imitate the early followers of Jesus and continue to preach under pressure?

II. Let's Encourage the Move of God (v. 22-24)

- What kind of news are you sharing with others? Good things or things that can add to the fire of bad news?

- How would it help the Move of God if we shared more of how Jesus would handle things and less about our personal opinions? How can you share some good news this week?
- Who is your Barnabas - someone who cheers you on and encourages you? How can you spend some time with them this week, so that you can be recharged and exhorted to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose?
- Who in your life would consider you their Barnabas? How can you exhort these people to remain faithful?
- How can you grow as a Barnabas? What needs to happen or what needs to change?
- What can we do in our everyday lives that would let people around you know what God is doing in your life and in His Church? What can you do to live differently like Barnabas?

III. Give God One Year of Your Life (v. 25-26)

- Share how serving others has changed your life.
- Do you think that you're doing all that God wants you to do? Explain.
- Are you willing to give God one year of your life to live your life on His plan? Why or why not?
- If you're going to give God one year of your life, what will that look like for you? What would it look like for you to make serving a part of that?
- There are countless opportunities to serve here in this church and others as well. Youth ministries, mission trips to far away lands, mission trips to local communities, and even our online campuses. God is laying all this in front of you. Which one will you commit to serve in?

Act On It

Encourage: If you were among the early followers of Jesus, being forced out of Jerusalem after Stephen was persecuted, how would you respond to that pressure? These folks, under the greatest of pressure, chose to step up and respond by preaching the truth of Jesus. What if we started seeing pressure as a way to make the Gospel shine? What if we turned moments of sadness into moments that bring glory to the name of Jesus? Pressure forces out what truly lies within, so let's let pressure reveal the living Spirit of God in us. Celebrate where God is moving in your life, give thanks, ooze encouragement, and grow intentionally in your life with Christ. Take your next step and commit to living a life that shows you're ALL IN with Jesus. Pressure doesn't stop the Gospel, it helps it shine brighter than ever before.

Ask: Ask God to help you see the pressures in your life and how you've been responding to them until now. Repent for old, unhealthy ways of coping with pressure. Pray to be given eyes that see God's goodness during difficult times and a mouth that will shout His truth instead of complaints. Ask the Holy Spirit to transform your heart so you can celebrate how God's moving around you. Pray to be given someone like Barnabas to encourage you, but to also make you a Barnabas to someone else that helps encourage someone else when they feel weak. Hand over the areas of your life that you've been keeping from God and allow Him to help you grow. Pray that God shows you where and how you need to commit in your faith, and ask for strength, perseverance, and guidance while you make the decision to go all in for the next 12 months.

Challenge: Which part of the [LifePoint 2021 Annual Report](#) were you a part of? How are you going to contribute to the 2022 Annual Report? For the next twelve months, commit to:

1. Attend your Church FAITHFULLY on Sundays
2. Join a small group
3. Attend our Next Steps class

4. Serve others by joining our Dream Team
5. Give like God's Word teaches us to give
6. Pray for LifePoint and your Pastor like God's Word teaches us to pray
7. Read the Bible FAITHFULLY like God's Word directs us
8. Forgive others like God's Word teaches us to forgive

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, thank you for being our strength when we need it. Thank you for everything we're learning in the Book of Acts and about the early Christ followers, who've served us by making it possible for us to know You.

Thank you for making it possible for us to deal with the pressures of this world. We can praise and preach Your Word under pressure because of who we are in You. Lord, help us to see difficult situations as moments to preach the Gospel. As your Word says in Philippians 2:14, help us to not grumble or complain, but to lift Your name high and help spread your goodness. In a world where pressures try to dim the light of the Gospel, we want to help the Gospel to shine brighter than ever before. Help us share good news over bad news, always putting your goodness at the forefront. Surround us with encouraging voices and help us speak life into all that we do and everyone that we meet. As we make our commitments to living Your way for the next 12 months, help us look forward to how You're going to grow and transform us into the people You've purposed us to be. Use us as needed, be our strength, and bring us peace. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of February 6th, 2022

Sermon Series: Book of Acts

Sermon: When God Changes What We Believe (Acts 11:1-18)

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- On a scale of 1-10, rate your laugh and share why you chose that number.

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

IV. Others May Not Understand What God is Doing in You! (v. 1-3)

- When you first went “all in” with Christ, how did the people in your life respond?
- Many Jewish Christians struggled with the idea that Jesus could be the Messiah to non-Jewish people. Have you ever thought that some people could or should not be saved by Jesus? How did God change your heart towards them, or how do you feel Him working on your heart to change?
- Can you think of someone in your life who you never thought could change, yet God transformed them completely? Please share.
- Other than just praying for God to change your mind and heart, what practical steps do you take or would encourage someone else to take to be more accepting of others?

V. Be Bold About What God is Doing in You, and Others (v. 4-16)

- Imagine someone you know who is greedy, sexually immoral, drunken, idolatrous, violent, adulterous, a liar, gluttonous, a God-hater, an unbeliever. How does it make you feel to know that all these people are welcome to come to Jesus so that He can change their lives and deliver them from sin?
- What's the difference between believing and following Christ?
- Knowing that none of us deserve the Grace of God, how does it affect

your approach to sharing God with others? How do you show the same grace that you've received to others?

- When have you given God the credit for overcoming something in your life? When was a time where you should have given God the glory but you remained silent?
- How do you balance the guardrails you've put in place to protect what God's doing in you, but also reaching out to everyone?
- Share a time that you told God, "No". Are you like Peter where you'd rather obey the laws than Jesus? What if we looked at everyone as the children of God?
- What are the areas of your life where you've used the excuse, "I was born or raised this way?" How have you gotten over this, or why won't you give it up?

VI. Let God Be God! We Don't Have to Be. (v. 17-18)

- What kind of ways do we stand in God's way? Are you standing in the way of someone's salvation? How can you get out of their way, get beside them, and lead them toward God?
- Remember: God will make people clean - God will change people's lives. Who can you invite to church that you don't think deserves it? Who can you welcome into your Small Group that you've been afraid of?
- How would it change us if we surrendered our judgment of others to Jesus and just let God open our hearts toward the people He desires to reach?
- How do you provide a safe place for people to meet God? How do you meet people where they're at?

Act On It

Encourage: When God shows you something and helps change the way you believe, think, or act, it is such a blessing. It feels so good to break those chains and turn away from the things that were holding us back from this life of freedom God has given to us. Our joy will make sense to us, but for people who haven't experienced that yet, it's baffling. This sermon was a great reminder that God loves ALL people, and Jesus came to die for ALL sinners. It's not up to us to decide who and who doesn't receive God's grace and life change, but it is up to us to make sure that we don't stand in the way of those who need to receive it. Be bold and share what God's doing in your life and encourage others to do the same. Rejoice when people decide to go "all in" in Jesus instead of questioning it. Instead of being gatekeepers, let's become joy-filled greeters of the Kingdom. Invite, welcome, build relationships, and love. Then, let God do what He does best, make people clean.

Ask: Thank God for all of the amazing things He's done in your life to help make you clean. Ask God for strength and boldness to share God's goodness with others. Pray for God to soften the heart of anyone who may be doubtful of your new heart and to give you opportunities to share what God has been doing in your life. Pray for wisdom and discernment in dealing with skeptics. Pray for help breaking down barriers you've constructed in the path of another person's salvation and to show you how you can walk with that person on their journey to know Christ.

Challenge: Open your eyes this week, and look for someone in your life who needs Jesus. Someone you might have overlooked as unsalvageable. Someone not deserving or able to be saved. Invite that person to coffee, to grab a bite to eat, to church, to your Small Group, to pray with you, to do life with you. Pray to God for the strength and courage to do all of this, and for the wisdom and discernment to help that person to know Jesus. Do it this week!

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, thank you for your word in Acts 11:9 that reads, "What God has made clean, do not call common." Thank you for making us clean. We're so thankful that we get to come to You as we are, and You're the one that changes us. It's not up to us or anyone else, You are the power to change lives. Thank you for being the example of love, teaching us to love everyone. While the world puts labels on everyone, help us to see everyone through Your eyes. God, help us be bold about the things that you're doing in our lives. Remind us that while they may be great gifts to us, Your blessings are meant to bring glory to Your name. Give us boldness to share Your truth and the work you're doing in our lives with others. Move us to places where we can bring Your word to others, and move us out of the path of peoples' salvation we may be blocking. Help us meet and embrace others right where they are. Help us lay all of our doubts and concerns at Your feet and walk away with a peace in knowing that You're in control. Amen.