

**Sunday Sermon Review: Week of February 27th, 2022**

**Sermon Series: Book of Acts**

**Sermon: The Church Being the Church (Acts 11:26-30)**

**Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette**

## **Icebreaker**

- Would you rather have everything that you touch disappear or everything that you touch stick to you?

## **Conversation Starters and Sermon Review**

### **I. Christians, Embrace Your Label! (v. 26)**

- How would you define the label of “Christian”?
- How would others label you? What labels are you currently wearing proudly?
- Have you ever been labeled as “odd” or “different” because you’re Christian? Did you accept it, or did you reject the label? Why?
- How are you doing at “being the Church”?
- What are you devoted to right now?

### **II. We Pay Attention and Respond to Needs (v. 27-29)**

- How are you responding in these present, difficult times? Are you hoarding for yourself or preparing to meet the needs of others around you?
- What’s the difference between enduring in your own strength and enduring using the strength of God?
- When a famine is prophesied, the early Church didn’t store up their own supply, they gave to help others! Look around you today. Where is an area around you that you could serve others like these disciples did?
- Read James 2:14-17. What can you do today to truly help others in these difficult times? What thing can you do, however small, that

would make a difference to someone in need today?

- Who are the “prophets” that you are listening to today? How are they influencing you? What kind of action do they stir in you? Are they in line with the Bible?
- What does it mean to you to be ready? Are you determined to provide relief?

### III. **The Local Church, Mobilized, is the Hope of the World! (v. 30)**

- Be generous, be active, be prayerful, and be responsive to the pains of our world! Don’t wait for others to do it, and don’t wait on your feelings to lead you with compassion or generosity. Look around you and find a place to SERVE, GIVE, PRAY, and even GO TO HELP. What is one thing you can do today to start that process?
- A.W. Tozer said, “A Scared World needs a Fearless Church!” Would you pray for those in need today? Would you pray for the leaders of the world, for those affected by war, and even for those in our cities and neighborhoods who need Jesus?
- As Christians, we can’t be the hope for the world if we don’t pray for everyone, including their enemies. How do you pray for your enemies?
- How do we walk out fulfilling the spiritual need after the physical need has been met?
- How much do you trust your church leadership? Why? Are you willing to address it?

## **Act On It**

**Encourage:** Our world is under some real pressure right now, and the Church, more than ever, needs to stand together and be the Church that God desires us to be. The Book of Acts tells us how we should be reacting under pressure. Those radical Jesus followers, instead of letting the pressure of persecution dull their faith, they let it shine brighter and stronger than ever before. Once they knew that disaster was coming, they sprung into action. They rose as the Church and went out to serve and give, and be a blessing to those in need. Let’s follow their lead! Don’t ever be

embarrassed or ashamed for standing up for your faith in Jesus. Of course people will think you're odd, but as Christ followers, we're called to be different. We're called to stand out against the culture of the world. Wear and live out your Christian label loud and proud. Keep standing up and standing out. Take your next step. Live different, our world and the Church needs it.

**Ask:** Pray 1 Peter 5:7 over any worries you may have and bring them to God. Ask to be given a reignited devotion to prayer. Pray for God's salvation and transformation in the hearts of people. Pray to see the label "Christian" as an honor, something that you're more than willing to embrace. Pray for boldness and courage to live different and stand apart from the rest of the world. Pray to be empowered by the Holy Spirit Pray to be the light God desires you to be. And, ask God to move you from a place of pity to a place of action and to show you how you can use your life to make a difference right where you're at.

**Challenge:** When in doubt, you can always offer prayer. Spend five minutes when you wake up and five minutes before you go to bed praying for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia. Pray that God will have His way, and people will come to know God through Jesus in these areas. Also, pray for our world leaders. Pray that they would have wisdom and discernment as events unfold in Europe that will affect the entire world. Finally, pray for Clarksville, as we are a military town with Soldiers and families that these events will have a great impact upon. Pray that God will place His hand of protection over us and keep us safe. Pray this for everyone, even people that you struggle to pray for. Do this today and every day this week.

And, start taking your next steps. Go to our Next Steps class, in-person or online, and learn how you can start serving others right where you're at now with the way God designed you. Look for serve opportunities with local non-profits and coordinate a serve project with your small group.

## **Prayer Request and Prayer**

Lord, we praise you for life change and transformation. We thank you for making us different. Thank you for the example of the early Church as Christ followers. Because of this, we trust that we can stand tall in times of pressure. Lord, help us truly embrace our label as Christians. Not only do we need to acknowledge it, but help us to reflect our beliefs in everything that we do. Before we're anything else, we are sons and daughters of God Himself. Help us to be proud to be named with Christ. God, open our eyes to the needs around us and move us into action in whatever way we can offer. Whether it's being generous in prayer, serving others, and giving financially, help us become people who are known for responding, showing up, and giving, now hiding, staying quiet, and hoarding. Use us where we are right now to lead people to You. Use us to bring hope to hopeless times. Help us be the Church you desire us to be. Amen.