

**Sunday Sermon Review: Week of April 10th, 2022**

**Sermon Series: The Book of Acts**

**Sermon: Our World Needs This Gospel (Acts 13:36-52)**

**Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette**

## **Icebreaker**

- Let's debate: Beach holiday or ski trip?

## **Conversation Starters and Sermon Review**

### **I. The Power of The Resurrection (v. 36-41)**

- What does the Resurrection of Christ mean to you?
- What does living a resurrected life mean to you?
- Is your faith powered by a passion for your traditions or a passion for the Cross? How do you know?
- Acts 13:39 reads, "and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses." What are the implications of this freedom?
- Acts 13:41 is a cross-reference to the Book of Habakkuk. Read Habakkuk 1-6. How does this verse relate to our world today?

### **II. People are Hungry for the Truth (v. 42-44)**

- Are we living our lives in such a way that creates a hunger in others to know the God we live for?
- How is your home different from the home of a non-believer?
- When you see the traffic leading up to the church or a full parking lot or when the online chat starts blowing up and you have to mute it, how do you respond? Do you praise God or do you complain? Why?

### **III. Haters Don't Stop the Gospel (v. 45-52)**

- Read Acts 13:51-52. What do you do when people judge you

because of your faith? Or when you're rejected?

- What are some strategies we can use to deal with rejection when sharing the Gospel? Can we trust God to give us the words to speak when we're faced with opposition to our faith?
- Have you ever seen God change the life of someone who previously rejected the Gospel? Please share.

## **Act On It**

**Encourage:** Without the resurrection of Christ, we have no relationship with or access to God and no freedom from our sins. This is what makes our Christian faith so unique. As Christians, we're holders of the greatest message ever, but it's not just for us. Our whole world needs Jesus. Live passionately and faithfully for God, so much that people get hungry for the truth of the Gospel. Share the Good News, unapologetically and unashamedly. Seek out moments to share the Gospel. You're not expected to reach the whole world by yourself, but you can reach out to the world around you. Share Jesus with your coworkers, roommates, classmates, family members, etc. If people reject it, don't change the message, just change the place. Don't overlook the power of God to change a life. Keep the message moving.

**Ask:** Ask God to speak to you and help you think through the following thoughts. Ask yourself if you truly understand the power of the Resurrection and why it's so central to the Christian faith. What does the Resurrection mean to your faith? Are you living out your faith in a way that stirs a hunger for God in the people around you? What can you do to live more passionately and faithfully for God? Who in your life needs to hear the truth of the Gospel and what can you do to share it with them?

**Challenge:** Acts 13:47 reads, "For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, 'I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'" Invite people to join you for church on Easter Sunday.

Make space in your small group for new people to come. When people ask how you're doing or how your day is going, use that as a way to share God's goodness. Share words of encouragement to someone new this week. Or let your actions be a message of encouragement and do something kind for someone.

## **Prayer Request and Prayer**

Lord, we thank You and we praise You for the power and victory in the resurrection. Thank You for defeating death so we get to have a relationship with You. God, help us to live on purpose for Your Kingdom. Help us live in a way that makes people hunger for Your Truth. We know our world needs You, and we want to live in a way that moves others to seek You. Lord, we pray for those in our lives who reject You and ask that You use us to show them Your love. Protect our hearts against this rejection - That we don't get discouraged when people don't want to hear about Jesus, but that we're encouraged to keep the Gospel moving and continue on to the next person that needs to hear. No matter what the response, we will press on and keep Your Truth moving forward. In this world that's feeling pain, brokenness, fear, and chaos, use us to bring people hope, love, and the Truth of The One who heals, restores, and makes all things new. We pray this all in Jesus' name, Amen.

**Sunday Sermon Review: Week of April 3rd, 2022**

**Sermon Series: Book of Acts**

**Sermon: Keep God's Story Fresh (Acts 13:13-36)**

**Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette**

## **Icebreaker**

- What kind of bear is best? (Hint: Bears, Beets, Battlestar Galactica)

*Jim: Question, what kind of bear is best?*

*Dwight: That's a ridiculous question.*

*Jim: False. Black bear.*

*Dwight: That's debatable. There are basically two schools of thought.*

*Jim: Fact. Bears eat beets. Bears. Beets. Battlestar Galactica.*

## **Conversation Starters and Sermon Review**

### **I. New Places, Same Passions (13:13-15)**

- Paul had a squad. These people also had a passion for God, and it is very important that we are all in healthy relationships with other Christians. Who is in YOUR squad?
- Some relationships last forever, some have seasons. Has anyone left your squad? Have you left the squad yourself? What was the reason? Are you remembering to always leave room for people to show back up in your life one day?
- If someone leaves your squad, do you use the opportunity to grow yourself?
- What is the mission of your squad?
- Do you carry your passion for God everywhere you go? Do you find it easier to share your hobbies than God?
- When you travel like Paul and his squad, do you find a place to attend church wherever you happen to be that Sunday? Do you have a passion for God's house, no matter where you are? Why or why not?
- We are called to give words of encouragement. How can you give a word of encouragement when you are going through hard

times or under pressure?

## **II. Timeless Story, Still Powerful (13:16-35)**

- If you were asked to stand up and give testimony in church, what would you say? Would you be too embarrassed, or would you stand up and BE READY with GOOD NEWS ON YOUR LIPS?
- How have you seen God's faithfulness in your life?
- When you read your bible, do you visualize what is going on? Are you in the audience? Do you hear his voice? Can you imagine what they sounded like/tone of voice?
- Paul took their own story and he brilliantly tied the story of their shared past and all that GOD Has done in their people, and made ALL OF THAT clearly about all of their FUTURE IN JESUS! How do you think that made them feel?
- v.19-21 - "And after destroying seven nations in the land of Canaan, He gave them their land as an inheritance. All this took about 450 years. And after that he gave them judges until Samuel the prophet. Then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years." Have you ever used someone else's story to share the gospel? What are things that people know that you could use to share the gospel? What are some creative ways that you can share the gospel?
- A testimony can simply be how Jesus has changed your life. Who can you share it with?
- The MAJOR FOCUS of Paul's story is to introduce people to the GOSPEL and to tell them about SALVATION IN JESUS! What was it like the first time YOU heard the gospel of Jesus?
- This was probably the first time these people had heard this GREAT NEWS! Can you imagine being there when these people heard this for the VERY FIRST TIME?

## **III. Big Story, Our Purpose (13:36)**

- The purpose of every Christian is to know God fully and to make God known. Are you fulfilling God's purpose for your life, or are you fulfilling your own purpose?

- God's purpose for our lives is to tell people about Jesus. We have opportunities every day with people at work, in the store, our neighbors, and our family. Who will you serve your purpose of God in your life with this week? Who will you share the gospel of Jesus with this week?
- Why is David a man after God's own heart?
- Do you have a heart of worship?

## **Act On It**

**Encourage:** No matter how many years go by, the gospel will continue to be good news to all of God's people. There are so many reasons to share His Word today, with everyone.

8 reasons WHY WE SHARE the Gospel with people, the message of the Gospel, the life, death, and Resurrection story of Jesus Christ.

1. Because Jesus is God's Greatest Gift to the World. John 3.16
2. Because Knowing Jesus is Only way we can Know God. John 14.6
3. Because a Relationship with Jesus is Full of Abundance. John 10.10
4. Because a life Without Jesus is a Death Sentence. John 3.17-18
5. Because Believing in Jesus Gives us Eternal Life. John 11.26
6. Because Jesus ASKED/TOLD us to Share the Gospel. Matthew 28.18-20
7. Because Jesus WANTS a Relationship with People. Rev. 3.20
8. Because Jesus Changed MY LIFE. 2 Cor. 5.17, Rev. 12.11

**Ask:** What is a good word that God would like you to share with someone this week? With whom will you share it?

**Challenge:** Invite people to Church this week, on Easter, on Sundays, to your Small Group. Invite them to KNOW JESUS! That is our PURPOSE! Let's FULFILL GOD's PURPOSE while we live – like David!

## **Prayer Request and Prayer**

Lord, we thank you for today's message, and we pray that you will use it to convict us in our daily lives this week. Use it to remind us that the everyday people in our lives are who desperately need you, and help us to have the courage to share your Word with them. Help us to be reminded that those who leave our lives to go their own way still need our prayer, and help us to welcome them back into our lives, should that season come. As we go forth this week, we pray that the Holy Spirit will be with us, and that we will find people all around us to tell about you, to invite to church, and to welcome into our small groups. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Sunday Sermon Review: Week of March 13th, 2022**

**Sermon Series: Book of Acts**

**Sermon: When God Allows the Mighty to Fall (Acts 12:20-25)**

**Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette**

## **Icebreaker**

- If you were an animal, what would you be and why?

## **Conversation Starters and Sermon Review**

### **I. Devotions that Develop into Revival**

1. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to SCRIPTURE
  - We know what the world thinks because of the news and social media, but what does the Bible say? Does scripture inform or influence your politics? How does our culture influence your politics?
  - Does the Bible lead your life and direct you on how to act, think, or believe?
  - Are you hungry for God's Word? What have you done to act upon that hunger?
2. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to PRAYER
  - Do you see prayer as a privilege or more of a burden?
  - Do you have a prayer life that you can rely on *first* when you need something in life? How can you sustain this prayer life during the mundane?
  - Do you continue to pray with confidence, even in moments of discouragement when you don't see life change or change in the circumstance?
  - How does knowing that God takes notice change or influence how you pray?
3. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to RELATIONSHIPS with other Believers
  - Think about your non-Christian friends. Do they help you grow



as a Christian, or do they hold you back? Do you hold them back?

4. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to SHARING THE FAITH

- You always have something to share with others, what is that way for you?
- When was the last time you shared the Gospel with someone else? What motivates you to keep sharing? What keeps you from sharing the Gospel with others?
- Most of us have invited friends and neighbors to come to church. Do you stop at the invitation, or do you continue to tell them about what Jesus has done in your life? How can you do that more?

5. They lived Every Day with Intentional Devotion to CRAZY GENEROSITY

- Do you use doubt as an excuse to not give generously? If so, have you done your due diligence to check where finances will end up? Do you feel called by God to give and can you challenge yourself to still be obedient through the doubt?
- What have you held back for yourself that you could have shared with other Christians?
- Are there certain things that you're more willing to give to than something else? Do you ultimately trust God with your finances?

6. They lived Every Day with an UNDERSTANDING about SUFFERING and PRESSURE

- The new believers didn't live underground, but lived their faith out loud. Think of a time when you hid your Christianity in order to avoid an uncomfortable situation. How could you have been more like the new believers in Acts and live your life out loud for Jesus?
- What does suffering look like for you?
- Do you take a pause to evaluate your circumstances and see how God could potentially be using this suffering to grow you?

## II. God Will Not Share His Throne (v.20-23)

- What are some ways that you react when you see the evil that's present in our world today? Do you respond like early Christians did, with prayer and generosity and trust in God? Do you show a face of fear, or a nature of serving?
- Do you find yourself criticizing and judging, or do you turn towards prayer?
- Imagine an evil leader in our own time. He kills his own people, invades neighboring countries, and never gives God the Glory in anything. Why does God allow this? Do you trust God to have His will in this situation? Do you trust in God to remove the evil in the world? Do you trust in the Lord's timing? Do you trust God to change hearts to accept Jesus, even after this type of situation?
- Pastor Mike shared a story about Christians kneeling down and praying in front of a tank in Ukraine. Do you trust God enough to be bold and have the same posture?
- Herod is like Putin, but Herod could also be us when we fail to give God the glory for anything that happens in our lives. What area in your life do you need to consciously and openly give God the glory for today? Do you have any idols in your life that are trying to share the throne with God?

## III. The Gospel Keeps Going (v.24-25)

- When and where can you preach the Gospel today so that the whole world can be reached? It all starts with you and the person next to you, at home, work, school, the store... Where will you start today?
- What devotion (scripture, prayer, relationships, sharing the faith, generosity, understanding pressure) do you need to work more on? What devotion do you feel is your strongest for winning the world for Jesus?

**Act On It**

**Encourage:** The Church in Acts built their life on God's word and faith in Jesus. They lived every day with a devotion to scripture, prayer, relationships with other believers, sharing the faith, being generous, and having an understanding that suffering will happen in this world. Regardless of what world leader there is, God is God over all the earth. Be encouraged that even when things are hard and the pressure is on, that God is still in control and that us, The Church, will continue to share His word. The gospel will keep going into all the world!

**Ask:** Ask yourself this week how you are responding in your interactions with others (both in person and social media) Biblically or worldly? Stop for a second before you speak or respond and ask that question. What are you promoting? What are your motivations? Is God guiding your responses?

**Challenge:** Make a list of three things that you can do today to spread God's Gospel. Actively engage every day this week to achieve those goals. Find a fellow believer to hold yourself accountable. Set a time in your planner or calendar, just like an appointment with God.

## **Prayer Request and Prayer**

Lord, we thank you for this word today. Would you grow us and make us like the early church, to be bold in our faith. Would you lead us in sharing the gospel with others, even when it's hard and face opposition from culture and non-believers. Give us strength to continue to pray even when we don't see immediate change and help us to always come to you honestly with what is on our heart. We know that you are a good Father who cares about His children and that you are always listening. May we always remember that! Lord, we love you and we praise you! In Jesus name, Amen.

**Sunday Sermon Review: Week of March 6th, 2022**

**Sermon Series: Book of Acts**

**Sermon: When Pressure Hits... We Grow! (Acts 12:1-17)**

**Speaker: Pastor Jordan Smalley**

## **Icebreaker**

- What is your favorite color fruit and why?

## **Conversation Starters and Sermon Review**

### **I. Under Pressure, Turn to Prayer (v. 1-5)**

- What's your first reaction to pressure?
  - Post on social media?
  - Complain/bad mouth?
  - Have a temper tantrum?
  - Shut down/retreat?
  - Prayer?
    - How has pressure pushed away your comfort zone for the good?
    - Do you run away from pressure or do you embrace it? Why?
    - Who helps you deal with pressure?

Prayer helps...

1. Shift our perspective
2. Remind us of Who is ultimately in control
3. Remind us where our help comes from!
4. Is how we fight our battles
  - Share a time where and how prayer helped change your perspective in a situation.
  - What pressure(s) in your life do you need to turn over in God?

## II. God Gives Us Peace Under Pressure (v. 6-11)

- How long do you wait to bring God into your problems?
- Do you think that the peace that Peter had is attainable for you? Do you feel like you're undeserving? Why or why not?
- In your seasons or moments of peace, do you hear God's voice more clearly? Why do you think this is?
- Is there something else in your life that has become louder than God's voice?
- The Word of God is a firm foundation. How much do you trust in God's promises? What kind of pressures causes this foundation to shake for you?

## III. Keep Moving Forward with God's Plan (v. 12-17)

- Does pressure overwhelm you? What does it mean to "grow through what you go through"?
- How do you stay encouraged in times of pressure?
- Have you ever experienced or thought that you were a roadblock in God's plan because you were listening to the lies of the enemy?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Are you able to continue to pray when difficult things happen around you? Can you continue spreading the Gospel? Why or why not?

## Act On It

**Encourage:** When the pressure was on for the Book of Acts followers, they didn't hide or retreat, they stood strong on their firm foundation and faith and prayed, but not just any ol' prayer. They turned to earnest, sincere, PASSIONATE prayer instead of moaning and complaining about the problem. What if we started doing the same? What if we started seeing times of pressure as gifts? As moments to grow closer to God instead of being consumed by the world? We can. No matter what, we can pray, and

we need to pray because our world needs us to pray. Prayer helps us shift our perspective, it helps remind us that God is in control, and that The Lord is our true source of help, and it helps us fight those spiritual battles that we're bound to find ourselves entangled in from time to time. Prayer and turning God in our troubles brings us the peace that surpasses all understanding - peace that can only come from drawing near to the Lord. This is the peace we need to keep the Gospel moving forward, even when we're under pressure. Just because we get stressed doesn't mean our calling as Christ followers gets to take a backseat. Let's take the pressures of our lives and surrender them to God so He can turn them into something beautiful.

**Ask:** Ask the Lord to speak into the pressures of your life and to show you where they are coming from. Pray to be given a new perspective, to see where God is working in those pressures so you can praise Him. Pray to be shown how God wants to use your pressure and what you're learning for His purpose. Pray to be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led. Ask God to bring you the peace that only He can bring. Ask God what you need to do to make yourself available to receive His Word. Finally, ask God what He wants you to do to continue spreading the Gospel.

**Challenge:** Find someone at work, at home, or while you're out running errands during this week and offer a prayer. For the rest of this week, set aside at least 10 minutes each day for prayer. Pray for the pressure in our world, on our economy, and in our culture. Be intentional and set aside some time to be still and to hear what God wants to speak to you.

## **Prayer Request and Prayer**

Lord, we thank you for the times that grow, stretch, and challenge us. God, right now, we're stopping and reminding ourselves of who is truly in control. We know that amazing things happen when we pause and commit ourselves to prayer time with You. God, help us make prayer a first response instead of a last resort. In times where we have every right to

panic and pace, we get to have unconditional peace because You love us and desire to fight for us. God, help us posture ourselves in a way that we can receive the Word that you want to speak about in our lives. Lord, help us build a firm foundation on Your Word. Help us strengthen that foundation with Your Word. Help us lean and rest in Your promises, no matter what the world throws at us. Help us be confident in who we are in You, and that You are in control. Fill our minds and hearts with peace so we can keep spreading the Good News and advancing the Kingdom. Amen.

**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.