

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of August 14th, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Be Teachable (Acts 18:18-28; 19:1-7)

Guest Speaker: Pastor Wayne Francis, The Life Church

Icebreaker

- What's the best topping for ice cream?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

Start off reading Acts 18:18-28

- What makes someone unteachable?
- When have you experienced working or dealing with someone unteachable? What was the end result?
- When have you experienced the chance to learn from someone whom you thought wouldn't have anything to teach you?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how teachable are you? Why?
- How do you develop relationships that are reciprocal in things like respect, teaching, learning, etc.?

How to make teachability a lifestyle:

- a. Listen to others who may not be at your level
 - b. Improve responses to feedback
 - c. Refuse to get defensive, no matter what is said
- Which of these areas comes easily to you? Which area do you need to be developed?
 - "Teachability is a willingness to learn something new and a willingness to relearn something you think you already knew." How can you practice teachability in your life? Where are you willing to learn something new? What are you willing to relearn?
 - Read John 12:23-26. When have you had difficulty following Christ when you thought Christianity was hard? Why is it important to follow

when the going gets tough?

- What would it look like for you to see and/or treat your work as a classroom? What about church? Relationships?
- Where in your life right now do you need to stay put and be teachable?
- Read Acts 19:1-7. The disciples' desire to learn and their willingness to change made it possible for Paul to teach them the right way to be baptized and made room for God to do big things in their lives. And it all started with Paul taking a small leap and asking them one simple question. Where is God calling you to take a small next step? What's holding you back?

Act On It

Encourage: Can you imagine how things would have gone if Apollos declined the teachings from Priscilla and Aquila? He was from Alexandria, he had great speaking skills, and he had tons of knowledge in scripture. But Apollos was missing the full revelation of who Christ was, and Priscilla and Aquila were there to help him fill that gap. His teachability helped lead others to Christ in Achaia, and helped pave the way for them to go and share. When we have a teachable spirit, it's not just for our good, but it benefits the people around us, too. God uses us the best when we have a desire to learn and have a willingness to learn old and new things.

Ask: When the going gets tough, have you been staying put and learning from it or have you been running? Where in your life are you teachable? Where are you not? What would it look like for you to make teachability a lifestyle? Have you been investing into someone who's unteachable? Is it time to let go?

Challenge: What could your most recent difficulty be trying to teach you? If you're struggling to answer something or come up with a solution, reach

out to someone this week that can help. Ask someone this week if there's anything they would like to learn from you.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, thank you for always giving us opportunities to learn and grow. Thank you for giving us chances to stretch beyond ourselves. Thank you for surrounding us with people who have different perspectives that speak into our lives, and that we get the chance to teach others. As we keep learning and growing, help us maintain a spirit of teachability. Remind us that no matter what, we can always learn something new or relearn something old. Help us to see all of the opportunities around us as teachable moments. When times get rough, may we not get discouraged and run, but may we be encouraged and learn new things. God, as you send us people that we can teach and uplift as well, give us discernment to know when we've given all that we can and when we need to move on. Show us our small next steps so You can use us to do big things. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of August 7th, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Trust God When You Tell Others About Jesus! (Acts 18:1-17)

Guest Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- It is a hot summer day. Two people are sitting on a park bench next to a lemonade stand, drinking lemonade. One takes a long and satisfying drink of their ice-cold lemonade, smacks their lips loudly and says, "Ahhhhhhh!" The other is highly annoyed by this outburst and would like to hurt them. Which one are you?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

Stage & Season of Life Doesn't Matter (Acts 18:1-4, 11)

- God wants every follower of Jesus to tell others about the Gospel, yet most Christians have never or rarely ever shared their faith. What's holding you back? Which excuse have you used before?
 - "I'm afraid."
 - "I don't know how."
 - "I don't know what to say."
 - "It's not my business."
 - "I don't want to offend."
 - "I'm too busy."
- Paul had been traveling and preaching for a number of years, but now he was completely out of ministry for 18 months while working as a tentmaker. Still, that did not keep him from preaching at the synagogue every weekend. Have you ever been in a season where you didn't minister to others as often as you could have? Where can you find opportunities in your daily life now to share Jesus?
- How are you letting God make the most out of your current stage and season? Where are you seeing Him work through you?
- Would you prefer to work or do life with like-minded believers or

non-believers? Would it be easier or harder for you to share the Gospel with your preference? Why?

- What support, other than a place to stay, do you think Aquila and Priscilla gave to Paul? Would you be willing to provide someone else with that same support? Who's your support?

God Will Prove Himself for You! (Acts 18:5-11)

- The religious people rejected Paul when he tried to share God's truth with them. Have you ever had this happen when trying to share Jesus with your circle of friends and family? How did you handle that rejection? Were you offended, or did you shake off your garments like Paul and just keep moving?
- Paul was rejected, then one verse later – a different crowd heard Paul and received Jesus. That is why keep trying to reach people with the gospel of Jesus. Where will you trust God and try to share God's truth next? How will you allow Him to lead you to share the Gospel?
- Paul was occupied with the Word. What do people find you to be occupied with?
- Have you had a bad experience sharing the gospel? Why do you think that happened? Were you trying to do it in your own will or did you make room for God to lead the conversation?
- Do you hear God cheering you on? If so, what's He's saying? If not, what's getting in the way?

God Stands With You! (Acts 18:12-17)

- Many of us believe that if we share our faith, we would get in real trouble with our work, could lose our jobs, be kicked out of school, or be shunned. What fears do you have that keep you from sharing your faith? What would Jesus say about that?
- We are constantly assaulted by those who would seek to silence any opposing view by shouting them down and sometimes even physically attacking them. Still, know that God is always with you when you are wanting to share His Good News! Knowing this, how will you share the gospel of Jesus this week?

- God can change the heart of your boss who threatens you. God can make sure you keep your job. God can close the mouths of your accusers. God can give you the RIGHT WORDS to say at the RIGHT TIME! What opportunities will you pray and ask God to give you, so you can share His truth THIS week?
- Are you willing to drop your excuses? How can you make Paul your role model?
- Share a time (through a dream, vision, a word, other people, circumstance, etc.) when God has spoken to you. Share a time where God proved Himself to you.

Act On It

Encourage: It's God's design and His will that every follower of Jesus tell others about The Gospel, about your faith, and about Jesus Christ. Period. No exemptions. ALL Christians, no matter where you live, work, or play, are called to share Jesus. God doesn't want to hear our excuses, He wants to see us in action. Each reason that we can give God not to do something, He meets us with the truth of why we can do it. Our society promotes and glorifies being busy, but there's still time to find your "synagogue moment." And don't let fear be the motivator for why you don't share the faith. God is always with you when you want to share His Good News. Drop your excuses, pray about it, share what God is sharing with you, and trust the Word of God and in His promises.

Ask: What's the biggest excuse you use not to share the Gospel? Has your stage and season in life prevented you from looking for opportunities to share Jesus with others? Is it fear or have you gotten comfortable? Without going out of your way or adding a separate activity, where can you be sharing Jesus with people? Where's your margin/ God told us to not be afraid, to go on speaking, to not be silent, that He is with us, that no one will harm us, and that He has many people who are His people. Do you struggle believing in any of these statements? What can you do to affirm these truths in your life?

Challenge: Drop your excuses. Pray this week for opportunities and margins in your life to intentionally share Jesus with others. Share what God is sharing with you. Trust that God will protect you and that He will change lives.

Prayer Request and Prayer

Lord, thank you for this message, for the reminder of the calling You've placed on our lives as followers of Christ. Thank you for this commission. Thank you for moving in our hearts and stirring a passion within us to share The Gospel. God, we confess all of the excuses we've been using to avoid this calling on our lives and repent for them. As we grow in our devotion for You, build our confidence in sharing Jesus with others. Give us a boldness to preach to the people around us that we know need to know the love of Jesus. Remove any fear or discomfort we may have about sharing Jesus with people, and move us to a place of action. We know that some people will accept what we have to say, but some will accept it. Keep our hearts and spirits encouraged as we do as You've called us to do. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of July 31st, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: Let's Talk About Jesus! (Acts 17:16-34)

Guest Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- Fall's on the way! What's your end-of-summer tradition?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

God Gives Many Opportunities to Share Jesus (Acts 17:16-21)

- What about our culture provokes you? How do you typically respond?
- What's something that provoked you so much, to the point where you had to say something about it? Please share?
- Is there something bothering you, but you've been idling and waiting for something to happen? What are you waiting on?
- What are some idols that people put before God? What are the idols that you put before God?
- What do you lead with when talking to others about Jesus? An invite to church or group, similar interests, or
- What are the opportunities that God has given you to share Jesus with others?

Know Your Stuff! (Acts 17:22-28)

- How's your prayer/devotion life? How well do you know the Gospel? How can you improve?
- Seeking the truth isn't the same as finding the truth. What's the difference?
- What does our relationship with God have to do with sharing the Gospel?
- How do you think you come off when talking to others about Jesus?

Is there a different way you could do it?

- Do you really pay attention to the people around you? Are you actively listening, observing, and watching for opportunities to specifically share Jesus with them? Explain.

Make a Strong Appeal for Jesus (Acts 17:29-34)

- Have you ever invited someone to give their life to Jesus Christ, not just come to church or to join your group? Please share.
- The truth is: God has fixed a day on which He will judge the world, and it's the command of God for ALL people to repent and give their lives to Jesus. How comfortable are you with telling people this truth? How would you explain it to another believer who doesn't know how to talk about it? How would you say this to a non-believer?
- Have you ever been criticized for your belief in Jesus? Explain what happened and how you responded.
- How can we stay encouraged to share Jesus with others when they reject what we're saying?
- Based on your personality, how would you make a strong appeal for Jesus to someone?

Act On It

Encourage: So far in the Book of Acts, Paul and his crew have dealt with a lot of opposition as they've traveled to share the Gospel, and modern-day Christians can relate. You may be ignored or mocked or ridiculed for standing in your beliefs, and it's difficult. Paul was literally being chased, but that didn't stop him from doing what God stirred in his heart: Making Jesus known to those who needed the truth. Wherever he was, God gave Paul plenty of opportunities to share Christ, and he took them. And God does the same thing for us, but we have to take them. We have to step forward in action, but that's not all. We need to know what we're sharing, which we can only do when through our personal relationship with Jesus. We have to know the God we serve. Through this relationship, we learn how to engage others and how to share the truth that people seek. The Gospel is for

everyone. God's command is for everyone to repent and live for Jesus. People need to know this. Get ready to step forward and share it.

Ask: What provokes you to the point that you can't stand it anymore? What are you doing or going to do about it, and will it bring glory to the Lord? What opportunities to share Jesus are you willfully ignoring? How are you going to step forward in your devotion and relationship with the Lord? What are you doing to make sure you know your stuff when you're sharing the Gospel? Are you actually paying attention to the people around you - listening, asking questions, and making connections? Have you ever personally invited someone to give their life to Christ?

Challenge: God gives us opportunities to share Jesus all the time, everyday. Find a way to mention or show Jesus to someone else in your next encounter. Invite someone to know Jesus before asking them to come to church. The next time something provokes you, pray about it before you act. Choose a step forward to take in your devotion and relationship to Jesus (i.e. share Jesus with a co-worker, commit to 21 Days of Prayer in August, come to Night of Worship on August 3rd, come to Men's Night on August 17th, serve others more, be more generous, etc.).

Prayer Request and Prayer

God, thank you for this amazing message that we get to share with people. Thank you for commissioning us to make You known. We repent for doing things our own way and giving into things that have kept us from sharing the Gospel. Help us reset our rhythms and devotions. Stir us to step forward and do something bold for The Kingdom. Show us how we can talk about Jesus with others. Give us the words to speak boldly about Christ. God, open our eyes to all of the opportunities we have to share truth and speak life. Let us see them before we miss them. We know that you've called us to love people, and sharing the Gospel is a way that we can love them well. Use us as you need us, spend us as your currency. Amen.

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of July 24th, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: An Intentional Response to Irrational Opposition (Acts 17:1-15)

Guest Speaker: Pastor Aaron Allison, CIL Church

Icebreaker

- What was your favorite breakfast cereal (hot or cold) as a child? Do they still make it today and does it still taste the same as it did when you were a kid?

Conversation Starters and Sermon Review

Intellectual Persuasion (Acts 17:1-4; 1 Peter 3:14-16)

- God has called us to use our minds and careful use of his scriptures. When confronted by a non-believer, how can you REASON with them and not ARGUE in order to persuade them?
- A weakness of this generation is that we judge someone not by what they say, but by whether we like them. That is why it is important to be relatable while conveying God's truth. How do you persuade non-believers while remaining relatable so they will listen?
- Getting angry at the world just because the world does what it does, doesn't do anyone any good. What situations can you think of where the world has made you angry? What could you do differently to keep from getting angry at the world?
- When in conflict, how does God want us to respond? How does 1 Peter 3:15-16 tell us to respond?
- What are some characteristics that Paul displayed when he was in the synagogue? Do these same characteristics apply to us today? How?
- Anger, oftentimes, is a secondary emotion. When you're angry, do you take a moment to try and figure out where it's coming from? What would that look like for you?

Irrational Opposition (Acts 17:5-13; 1 Peter 4:3-4)

- Even though we respond with gentleness and respect, we may not get it back. This is often inspired by the enemy who opposes the work of God. Describe a situation where you were met with anger when you spoke God's truth.
- What does it mean to respond in gentleness and respect? What would that look like for you to do, if someone was attacking you?
- It's hard to be a young Christian today, because of all the opposition out there today. We worship in a joyful church, but it's hard when we make a stand for Christ and are met with opposition, anger, and slander. How has being a Christian affected your relationships with your non-believing friends and relatives?
- Where are you seeing irrational opposition today and what are you doing about it?
- Are you acting as a Jew, Jason, Paul, Silas, a bystander, or as part of strategy? Why? Do you need to change anything?
- Read 1 Peter 4:3-4. Are you confident in your walk in Christ to change your behaviors, to say no, or to modify your behavior. Where are you still falling into sin? How do you do the right thing when you're surrounded by the old thing?

Intentional Response (Acts 17:14-15; Matthew 28:18-20)

- How does it make you feel, knowing that God has intentionally placed you to have an intentional response to irrational opposition in this world? Do you feel like you're able to make a difference? Why or why not?
- You are not just filling a chair in the auditorium or a part of the viewer count online. How can you use the power that God has given you to use every day to serve him and preach His truth?
- Our church is training the next generation. We disciple the next generation, so they can give an intentional response to irrational opposition. We equip our next generation to make disciples of all nations, baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of

the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that God has commanded. YOU are gifted and strategically placed by God to be able to help with this mission. What Dream Team, or other opportunity, can you get involved with to help train our next generation?

- As a group, take a moment to discuss different kinds of intentional responses. Keep in mind, they can range from things you would give at home to participating in an international mission trip.
- Where do you need to step up and be a part of an intentional response?

Act On It

Encourage: As Pastor Aaron shared with us in this message, right now, we're in the middle of a season of change. Humanity is changing and as a result, culture is changing as well. And as culture changes, the Church needs to change as well, but our change needs to be aligned in Christ. God calls us to be His light in the world, which we can only do when we align our minds to Christ and the truth of scripture. Be willing to be different and be ready to respond, with gentleness and respect, to the opposition that comes with being different. People won't understand the change in you, and that's okay. What matters is what you're going to do with your changed life. Embrace how God has positioned you to use you to bring His light into the world, don't be hidden. In a world of irrational opposition, use your Spirit-led intellectual persuasion to lead others to an intentional response in Christ.

Ask: What or who is influencing your life right now, and what has made you trust this source? How have you been responding to what's happening in the world? Would God like the way you've been responding? How do you think He'd want you to respond? How is He prompting you to respond? God is very intentional in the way He places us - How can you use your current placement to bring glory to God? What's one way that you can help train the next generation?

Challenge: Meditate on the Fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5. What would it look like to exhibit them in your life? Take one thing from the message or discussion that you're going to intentionally work on this week and make a plan. Share it with the group the next time you meet. The next time you're prompted to give an irrational response, pause, capture it, and be intentional about making it a response that glorifies the Lord. Start prepping to participate in the 21 Days of Prayer coming up August 1st through August 21st. Men, you have a great chance to become part of the strategy, and visit lifepointchurch.tv/events to register for Men's Night on August 17th!

Prayer Request and Prayer

Father, we thank You for being our true source of truth. Thank You for being our anchor in a world that tries to sink us. Lord, we know that you see all of the irrational opposition in our world, and we're thankful that You've placed and equipped us to respond to it. Give us the boldness to be different, the courage to stand up in knowing Your truth and promises. Protect our hearts when we face criticism. Grow in us a spirit of gentleness and respect so that our responses lead people to faith. May we always find peace and comfort in knowing and sharing that Your way is the only way. Move us into action. Help us see that where you have us right now in our lives, it is intentional. Use us as you need us. We don't want to be just an audience of Christ, we want to be a part of the production. Thank You for the opportunities to share Your love with others that we know are on the way. We welcome them. Amen.