

Sunday Sermon Review: Week of October 2nd, 2022

Sermon Series: The Book of Acts

Sermon: The Gospel Changes People, For Real! So Stay Focused on It!
(Acts 19:1-10)

Guest Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

Icebreaker

- Salty, sweet, or sour? Why?

Discussion Questions

Clarity in Christ is Very Important! (v. 1-4)

- We all know good people who think the way to Jesus is wanting to DO RIGHT and LIVE RIGHT, but that ISN'T enough to ensure our salvation. Being a fan of Jesus is not the same as following Jesus. How would you show them the way to Jesus?
- What is the difference between believing in God and following God? What about knowing of God versus knowing God?
- Do you crave the Gospel? Why or why not?
- Have you ever had a time when something EXCITED YOU so much, you couldn't help but tell others about it? When was the last time you got really excited about your faith in Jesus? What holds you back?
- Is the Holy Spirit telling you to tell people about God? If not, why not? Are you REALLY listening?
- What's the role of the Holy Spirit in your life? How would you bring clarity to this?
- Do you think that you can have clarity without repentance? Why or why not?

God Really Changes Lives! (v. 5-7)

- Why is it not enough to just know what the Bible says? Why do we need to keep reading it?

- What does it mean for God to change lives? Is it a one-time deal or a process? What do you need to really be transformed?
- Think of a time when you may have hesitated to tell someone about Jesus and the Gospel because you thought it might offend them. What would the Holy Spirit want you to do?
- Do you feel qualified enough to tell people about Jesus? Why or why not?
- These twelve new followers mentioned in Acts IMMEDIATELY responded when the TRUTH of the Gospel was made CLEAR and PLAIN! How can you tell someone today about the Gospel, tell them about JESUS, tell them that GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT wants to LIVE ON THE INSIDE OF THEM so GOD CAN CHANGE THEIR LIVES?
- How does it make you feel knowing that the Holy Spirit desires to dwell in us? What does that tell you about your importance to Him?

Stay Focused, and Don't Waste Time! (v. 8-10)

- Sometimes it's OK to withdraw like Paul did. You will never be able to change some people, so you just have to walk away and leave that to God. Who do you know who "became stubborn and continued in unbelief" and couldn't be convinced of the Gospel? Did God ever change them, or is He still working on them?
- In this passage, we're told not to waste time on stubborn unbelievers? Is that any different from a believer who refuses to repent?
- When do you know when to move on from stubborn people? Even if it's a stubborn person, do you have a willingness to pray and the obedience to move if God calls you to?
- When you're faced with opposition, how do you stay focused and encouraged to keep sharing the truth?
- What would it look like for you to be reasonable and persuasive in leading others to Christ? What's the danger of being offensive or antagonistic about the Gospel?

Now What?

Encourage: As Christ followers, we have the best news, the most powerful story to tell! We get to tell others about the gospel, a story that holds the power to change lives. This is such a great gift, which is why it's so important that we get it right. Our friends, family, coworkers, neighbors need clarity about Christ, and God wants to use us to bring it to them. When we can clearly communicate the importance of truth, God can start working in their hearts. When people understand what God wants to do for them, they will respond, go all in with Christ, and allow God to transform their hearts. And remember, we don't seek clarity to change lives because that's God's job. We seek clarity to share the truth of the gospel, so that when people choose to follow Christ, they have the right story. Not everyone will understand our passion for this, and that's okay. Our job is to plant seeds, help water them as we're called, and God brings their growth.

Ask: When was the last time I got excited about what God's doing around me? How is my passion for Jesus right at this moment? What would reignite my passion for sharing The Word? Is there anything I'm lacking clarity about when it comes to sharing Jesus with others? How can I get better at talking about the Gospel with people?

Challenge: As Pastor Mike challenged us in the message:

Do what you can to stoke the flames of passion for Jesus? What will it take for you to be excited about Jesus again?

Ask God, "Who can I tell about Jesus this week?" Pray for them and pray for your opportunity.

Believe God to show up in a major way and change someone's life!

Refuse to get discouraged and keep telling people about Jesus!

Closing Prayer

Lord, thank you for giving us the best news to share with others. Thank you for the gift of a life giving message in this world. Lord, we're ready to reignite passion for You again. Holy Spirit, come into our hearts and burn inside of us like never before. Give us clarity of the clarity of the Gospel that we need to confidently and boldly speak about Christ to those around us. We don't want to be people that know of You, we want to be people that know You. Use us to speak Your truth so that others can come to know you as well. Help us remember that as long as we just help plant seeds, You'll come and make them grow. Open our eyes and hearts to the person in our lives that desires You and how we can help. Not everyone will understand our passion and what we speak, and we ask that You keep us encouraged to keep going.