

SERMON NOTES

September 4, 2016

OUTLINE:

TITLE: New Beginnings - A Great Commitment to the Great Commission!

TEXT: Acts 1:1-11

THEME: Spreading the Word - Building the Church

Introduction: Several Keys to Thinking through Acts

A. PLACES

B. PEOPLE

C. PERSECUTION

D. POWER

I. The Command

A. The Instructions

1. The Place - Jerusalem

a. Provision

b. Protection

2. The Promise

a. Jesus Taught It

b. John Typified It

B. The Inquiry

II. The Clarification

A. The Negative Instruction

1. The Designation of Authority

2. The Design of Accountability

B. The Necessary Imputation

1. It is Promised

2. It is Passive

3. It is Powerful

4. It is Personal

5. It is Purposeful

6. It is Planned

7. It is Protected

III. The Commitment

A. They Went – Obedience

B. They Waited – Submission

Conclusion

QUESTIONS:

1. What did you hear?
2. In order to serve God, the disciples were going to have to be uncomfortable. They were going to be in a place where they didn't belong and weren't wanted. They were going to be without what they needed. They were going to be doing something that wasn't appreciated. What is our current environment like for the spread of the Gospel? How can we deal with these circumstances?
3. When it comes to sharing the Gospel, what kind of impact do "circumstances" have on your obedience?
4. It is easy to become consumed with what we cannot do, rather than focusing on what we can. What are some things/ways that you are currently sharing the Gospel? Do you have any ideas about how we can spread the Gospel in the days ahead?
5. When commissioning His disciples with the Great Commission, Jesus reminded them of God's authority and their accountability. God protected them and provided for them, but He didn't tell them how or when – instead, He asked for obedient trust.

Have there been times in your life where you faced circumstances where you knew you needed to obey God, but you weren't sure what would happen? What happened? What did God do?

6. The disciples went, waited and worshipped. This is a great model to follow when serving the Lord.

"They went" – they did what they knew to do.

"They waited" – they didn't do things that they weren't supposed to do.

"They worshipped" – they focused on God.

How can this pattern help you in your life right now?

7. Luke highlights the fact of the disciple's unity and community (v11)

How important is a sense of community when it comes to obeying the Lord and living for Him?

8. Luke speaks of their commitment and persistence in prayer.

How important is "praying together" in building a sense of togetherness in serving the Lord? Are there people in your life that you regularly pray together with?