



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Don't Wait. **SHARE JESUS NOW!**

Series preached on Sunday Morning, November 27th and December 4th, 2022

John 14:12 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”

I don't know about you...but that is one of my favorite verses.
It really allows us to view our potential in life. Whatever Jesus did...we should do AND greater... because of the Holy Spirit.

John tells us that if we were to tell of all that Jesus did during his 3 years of ministry...the books in the world couldn't hold them all.

We are presented with about 27 to 40 days (segments of days) of Jesus' life.

In these 27 to 40 days He...

- * cast out demons...dramatically...
- * walked on water
- * helped fishermen catch amazing amount of fish
- * fed thousands of people several times...
- * produced money in the fishes mouth...
- * healed and healed and healed (creative miracles)

AND we are suppose to do what HE did...and GREATER!

AGAIN...a lot of people look at this as a reminder of how far we have fallen short (which I get), but I see it as the potential of what is expected and what we can actually do!

NOW (transition): That should challenge us...when we see what Jesus did...knowing that we can do the same things (Acts 10:38) because God is with us!

Mark 2:13-17

- 13 And he went forth again by the sea side; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them.
- 14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him.
- 15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him.
- 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?
- 17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Luke 19:1-10

Tells the story of Zacchaeus, who was a cheat and a tax collector. But when Jesus was passing through Jericho...Jesus set His focus on Zacchaeus and went after Him to have his life changed forever!

NOW...if it is true that the things that Jesus did would fill the earth with books...then we KNOW that witnessing and spreading the Gospel was something that He did daily. We see snippets of it in the Gospels...but it had to be a major focus of His.

HOW, then, can we be indifferent to winning souls.

John 4:1-42 (Jesus walks in to Samaria and His disciples go to get food, but Jesus sits by the city well...in the middle of the day...to get some water and rest.)

Vs. 7 – He asks the only lady there for some water (He knew what He was getting ready to do... He knew her shame and why she would come to the well in the middle of the day.

Vs. 9 – She points out that a Jews shouldn't be asking a Samaritan for anything.

JESUS immediately steps in and begins ministering to her.

Reading her mail (gifts of the spirit); loving her; not passing judgment!

He legitimately is tired and just wants water...**NOTE:** There is no proof that He actually gets any water from her (maybe she did it during the convo).

But He is intensely aware of her heart situation...her life situation...knowing that if something doesn't change she will be lost forever.

BELOVED: That was the heart of Jesus. That was His focus!

That needs to be our focus too.

NOTICE: This ONE important part!

28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

When her life was changed...she immediately became the first evangelist of the Gospel..."come and see"!

Her life was changed...she wanted others to have their life changed.

Her shame was lifted...she wanted others to have their shame lifted.

It is a NATURAL response to what Jesus is doing in her life.

BELOVED: It should be a NATURAL response to what Jesus is doing in our lives too.

LOOK AT THE RESULT:

39 And many of the Samaritans of that city **believed on him for the saying of the woman**, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

41 And many more believed because of his own word;

42 And said unto the woman, **Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves**, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Changed lives change lives!

Mark 5:19 (after delivering a man from a legion of demons...into pigs)

The man who had been delivered wanted to stay with Jesus and follow Him, but Jesus told him to do what?

19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and **tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee**, and hath had compassion on thee.

HONESTLY, we have tried to make witnessing about having a great understanding of all the Word of God...and have the ability to argue Scripture with everyone...but the best witness is sharing what Jesus has done for you.

ILLUSTRATION: Bill Johnson tells about a person who started attending their church and came up to him and told him that they wanted to join their mall outreach. Bill thought for a moment and said, "We don't have a mall outreach." The person said, "Yes you do...I always see Bethel people at the mall praying for people...I want to be a part of that outreach." Bill laughed and replied, "No, we just have people who like to shop and believe in what we preach."

BELOVED: Often we get stuck in a battle (of some sort) and we get frustrated in that battle and we get discouraged...so we forget to SHARE what Jesus has already done for us.

LET ME say it to you this way...

* One of the ways you know how passionate you are for the things of God is if you share it with others. Soul-winning! (like fire shut up in my bones)

* If you are feeling spiritually dry, one of the best ways to become more passionate about the things of God is begin soul-winning!

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 **Go ye therefore**, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, **lo, I am with you alway**, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

(Acts 10:38 – Jesus did what He did because God was with Him)

Mark 16:15-20

15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world**, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 **And these signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word with signs following**. Amen.

Acts 1:8 – “But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost** is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

RICK RENNER: “When a church shrinks back from making souls a priority, the people have made a decision that will result in the manifested power of God **WANING** in their midst.”

BELOVED: When fire begins to die...fleshly things begin to take over.

* Music needs to be turned up

* Light and smoke shows need to be increased

ILLUSTRATION: A camp fire, when it is going big. People just hang out around the fire and talk/share. When it gets small, people have to stand up and get active **DOING!**

Sharing JESUS is NOT doing, it is BEING who you have NOW become.

Three Levels of Sharing Jesus

LOWEST LEVEL...still a level – Invite them to church!

The lady at the well, didn't know a lot, but invited them to come and hear.

MIDDLE LEVEL...share in words and actions!

Acts like a Christian...do Christian things! Let your light shine!

Talk to them about Jesus...your testimony...answer questions.

HIGHEST LEVEL...love!

John 13:35 – “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

It is what we owe to all men!

People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care!

Reality of Hell

CS Lewis: “*There is no doctrine which I would more willingly remove from Christianity than the doctrine of hell, if it lay in my power.* But it has the full support of Scripture and especially of our Lord's own words; it has always been held by the Christian church, and it has the support of reason.”

Hell was never created for man...it was created for satan. But it is the destination for those who are not right with Christ.

BELOVED: I am not sure that hell needs to be our lead when we are witnessing, but it sure needs to be our **REASON** for witnessing!

We must learn to be straight about the fact that unsaved people are going to hell. It is a very real place and people really go there...every day.

That is why Jesus burned with passion for the lost.

That is why we need to burn with passion for them too.

William Booth (Methodist preacher founder of salvation army): “Most Christian ministries would like to send their recruits to Bible college for five years. I would like to send our recruits to hell for five minutes. That would do more than anything else to prepare them for a lifetime of compassionate ministry.”

Luke 16:19-31

- 19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:
- 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
- 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.
- 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;
- 23 **And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments,** and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
- 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.
- 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.
- 26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.
- 27 **Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:** ("Pray" - beg)
- 28 **For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.**
- 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
- 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
- 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

BELOVED: The greatest group of people who believe in active evangelism that there is...are those who are in hell.

Let's not wait!

Ezekiel 3:18,19

- 18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.
- 19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Importance of the Holy Ghost

There is a large group of people (even Pentecostals) who have diminished the importance of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I guess we live in the time of participation trophies...so they feel like if they are participating in Christianity, then they should get all of what is involved in the NT church. Yes, Holy Spirit takes up residence on the inside of you at conversion...you are not FILLED or BAPTISED in the Holy Spirit at that time.

BELOVED: There is absolutely NO DOUBT that even though the baptism of the Holy Spirit came often when people were born-again, it was a subsequent act (came after).

Acts 2:39 – “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

BELOVED: Yes, you can make it to heaven without being baptized in the Holy Spirit (evidence of speaking in tongues), but you will miss out on so much.
(teacher, guide, comforter, but also and mainly POWER)

Jesus lived 30 years on this earth without much going on...except living a good life...busy about His Father's business.

John 1:32,33

32 And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

(Matthew then says He fasted for 40 days...was tempted...THEN His ministry started)

QUESTION: How much of the Holy Spirit was in Him?

John 3:34 – “For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.”

UNDERSTAND: Jesus was WHO HE WAS and DID WHAT HE DID and even SAID WHAT HE SAID because of the Holy Spirit that was upon and in Him!

He had the OVERFLOW of the Holy Spirit!

Acts 10:38 – “How **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power:** who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

BELOVED: How often have you concerned yourself with not having the right words to speak when you share Jesus with someone?

Vs. 34 – Jesus spoke the right words because of the Spirit.

Vs. 38 – Jesus did what He did because of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus told the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait...don't do anything until the Holy Spirit fell on them!

40 days they went to Jerusalem and waited...didn't do a whole lot...no miracles...no power...

Why did they wait?

Acts 1:8 – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

Acts 2:1-4

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This is what they had been waiting for...it changed everything. Everything that happened in the BOOK OF ACTS was because of THIS one event that stuck with them!

BELOVED: The early church was LIT UP like a burning flame...after the Holy Ghost.

NOTE: They hadn't been taught on evangelism...took no courses...read no books...JUST DID IT!
Relates perfectly to John 14:12.

BELOVED: We have given TOO MUCH attention to methods and resources...too LITTLE attention to the Holy Spirit and power!

ANDREW MURRAY: "Men ought to seek with their whole hearts to be filled with the Spirit of God. Without being filled with the Spirit, it is utterly impossible that an individual Christian or a church can ever live or work as God desires."

AW TOZER: "If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95% of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95% of what they did would stop and everyone would know the difference."

DL MOODY: "How easy is it to work for God when we are filled with His Spirit. His service is so sweet, so delightful: He is not a hard master: People talk about their being overworked and breaking down. It is not so. It is [over-worry] and care that wears people out. Why do so many workers break down? Not for overwork, but because there has been friction of the machinery: there hasn't been enough of the oil of the Spirit. Great engines have their machinery so arranged that where is friction, there is oil dropping on it all the time. It is a good thing for Christians to have plenty of oil."

The Gifts of the Spirit at Witnessing

Here is one more aspect of being Baptized in the Holy Spirit...you have access to the Gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

- * Word of wisdom (what to do)
- * Word of knowledge (what has happened)...reading mail
- * Faith (extraordinary faith)
- * Gifts of healings
- * Working of miracles
- * Discerning of spirits
- * Tongues
- * Interpretation of tongues
- * Prophecy

It is not hard to see how these all would come in handy in witnessing.
It is not available to your average Christian.

John 4 – The lady at the well

- * Jesus' main tool to minister to her was to read her mail. How many husbands she had...her current living arrangements.
- * Her witnessing tool?

John 4:28-30

- 28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,
29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?
30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

Matthew 16:15-20

15 And he said unto them, ***Go ye into all the world***, and **preach the gospel to every creature.**

* Not just pastors!

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And ***these signs shall follow them that believe***; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, ***the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following***. Amen.

* Of course they went and preached after Acts 2...after TONGUES!