

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: The Pathway to Power

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 1:1-9

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1233

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) We need to take a look back so that we might really face the future.
 - i) It is important that we do this today because it is the old-time religion that needs to be the new-time religion.
 - (1) We need to get back to the basics.
- b) The book of Acts is the story of success.
 - i) It is the story of a church triumphant.
 - ii) It is the story of a small group of unlettered, uncultured people with meager resources, very little money, no prestige, no colleges, no seminaries, no media, nor magnificent buildings.
 - (1) A small group of people who went out to tell the story of a publicly executed Jew.
 - iii) They went out against great obstacles:
 - (1) The imperial might of Rome
 - (2) The intellectual sophistication of Greece
 - (3) The religious bigotry of that day
 - iv) They turned that world inside out and upside down for Jesus Christ.
 - (1) They did so much with so little.
 - (a) We do so little with so much.
- c) We need to go back and see what they did and how they did it.
 - i) For that reason, we will study the book of Acts, which is the story of a church on fire with evangelism and growth.
 - (1) It can become our pattern for today.
- d) Acts 1:1-9
 - i) The former treatise was the Gospel of Luke.
 - (1) Dr. Luke, who was a medical doctor, wrote the Gospel of Luke and then wrote the book of Acts.
 - (a) He was a great physician and a noted historian.
- e) The book of Acts tells us what happened in the primitive years of the church.
 - i) This ought to be the pattern for us in this day and age.
- f) In today's message, we will look at three vital truths out of our passage in Acts that will help us to live victoriously and to have power with God and men.

2) WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE HIS PRESENCE IN US (ACTS 1:1)

- a) This is more than just a phrase.
 - i) It is one of the most vital, dynamic, earth-shaking thoughts that can ever be given to us.
- b) Acts 1:1
 - i) The idea is not that Jesus is finished.
 - (1) He is still doing and teaching.
 - (2) Jesus was taken to Heaven, but He is still acting, working, and teaching.
 - ii) In the Gospels, Jesus was here in His physical body.

- iii) In the book of Acts, Jesus is here in His spiritual body.
 - (1) What we have in the book of Acts are the acts of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- iv) In this verse, Luke was saying the following:
 - (1) In the Gospel of Luke, I showed you all that Jesus started to do.
 - (2) In the book of Acts, I'm showing you all that Jesus continues to do.
- c) Jesus is still alive and active; He just has a different body.
 - i) The presence of Jesus is in those of us who are saved.
 - ii) Jesus does not want us to do anything for Him; He wants to do something through us.
 - (1) Colossians 1:27
 - iii) Jesus Christ is alive, and He lives in those who are saved.
- d) The Christian life is not difficult; the Christian life is totally impossible.
 - i) There is only one person who ever lived the Christian life, and His name is Jesus.
 - ii) There is only one person who can live the Christian life, and His name is Jesus.
 - iii) If the Christian life is lived where you live, then it will be Jesus in you living that Christian life.
 - (1) Colossians 1:27
 - (2) Somehow, we get the idea that we can live it.
- e) We are not saved by our own works; salvation is a miracle.
- f) There are three miracles to the Christian life:
 - i) The Christian life commences with a miracle, which is the new birth.
 - ii) Our earthly Christian life concludes with a miracle, which is our translation when we are caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
 - iii) The Christian life is to continue with a miracle.
- g) The very life that we live is to be a miracle life; it is Christ in us.
 - i) Galatians 2:20
 - (1) A dead man can do nothing.
 - (2) It is Christ in us.
 - ii) Judges 6:34
 - (1) The Spirit of the Lord wore Gideon like a suit of clothes.
 - (2) The Lord clothed himself with Gideon.
 - (a) How would you like for God to wear you like a suit of clothes and for the Lord to inhabit your humanity?
 - iii) The reason that the early church did what they did with such power is that it really was not them doing it.
 - (1) It was Jesus doing it.
- h) We are not adequate, but He is adequate.
 - i) Someone has coined these words:
 - (1) Lord, I can't; You never said I could.
 - (2) But You can, and You always said You would.
- i) The great ability that we need is availability.
 - i) Bringing the world to Christ is not our responsibility.

- (1) It is our response to His ability.
 - j) We have a mission impossible.
 - i) When we look at the Great Commission, we feel inadequate.
 - (1) Matthew 28:18-20
 - ii) Matthew 16:18
 - (1) Jesus didn't say that we would build His church.
 - (a) He said that He would build His church.
 - iii) In Acts 1:1, notice what Dr. Luke was saying:
 - (1) The Gospel of Luke was what Jesus began to do.
 - (2) The book of Acts is what Jesus will continue to do.
 - (3) The first time, Jesus did it in His physical body.
 - (4) Now, Jesus will do it in His spiritual body.
 - (a) It is Christ in us.
 - (i) He wants to do this in us.
 - iv) Acts 5:12-14
 - (1) A landslide of souls was being saved.
 - (2) "By the hands of the apostles" may be accurately translated, "Through the hands of the apostles."
 - (a) It was not what the apostles were doing.
 - (b) It was what the Lord was doing through their hands.
 - v) How would you like for Jesus to work through your hands, to speak through your lips, to think through your mind, and to love with your heart?
 - (1) If you are saved, then Jesus Christ now has your body as His body.
 - (a) He lives in you.
 - k) When we try to live the Christian life without Christ in us living that Christian life, we fail.
 - i) Many Christians are failing because they are trying.
 - (1) God does not want us to try.
 - (2) It is time to stop trying and start trusting.
 - l) If we do anything that is spiritual, lasting, and worthwhile, then it is not us.
 - i) It is Jesus in us.
 - (1) Jesus needs to get the praise and the glory.
 - m) Acts 1:1
 - i) The idea is that He's not quit doing it.
 - n) If you want to be radically, dramatically transformed, then recognize Jesus' presence in you.
- 3) WE NEED TO RECEIVE HIS PROMISE TO US (ACTS 1:4-8)
 - a) Jesus had made a promise.
 - i) Luke 24:49
 - (1) Not only is it foolish, but it is also wicked to try to do God's work without God's power.
 - b) We can receive the promise of the Father.

- i) The promise of the Father is spiritual power through the Holy Spirit to get God's work done.
- ii) We don't have to tarry anymore because the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost.
 - (1) The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an accomplished fact.
- c) Nowhere in the Bible is a Christian ever commanded to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, but we are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - i) Ephesians 5:18
 - ii) When we are filled with the Spirit of God, we are filled with the Spirit of power.
- d) The Holy Spirit of God is Christ in the Christian.
 - i) John 14:18
 - (1) Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit.
 - ii) We don't worship three Gods; we worship one God:
 - (1) God the Father
 - (2) God the Son
 - (3) God the Holy Spirit
 - iii) The Holy Spirit in our hearts is Jesus in us.
 - (1) That is the promise of the Father.
- e) Acts 1:8
 - i) Why do we need that power?
 - (1) We need Him to enlighten us.
 - (a) We don't know where to go, what to do, or what to say, but He does.
 - (b) He will guide us.
 - (i) John 16:13
 - (2) We need Him to enable us.
 - (a) It is not enough to know the will of God.
 - (i) We have to do the will of God.
 - (b) How will we do the will of God?
 - (i) It will be Him doing it in us.
 - (ii) We cannot do it.
 - (iii) He has to enable us.
 - (3) We need Him to encourage us.
 - (a) The "Comforter" (the name for the Holy Spirit) is called an encourager; one who is called alongside of us.
 - (i) Someone who gives us strength and encouragement to get the job done.
 - f) The early Christians faced persecution.
 - i) There were heartaches and tears.
 - ii) Some of them were physically threatened.
 - iii) Some of them were killed.
 - iv) But they had the power to live for Christ and to die for Christ because the Holy Spirit of God had come upon them.

- (1) Acts 4:33
- g) Dr. A.C. Dixon, a preacher from many years ago, said the following:
 - i) When we rely upon organization, we get what organization can do.
 - ii) When we rely upon education, we get what education can do.
 - iii) When we rely upon eloquence, we get what eloquence can do.
 - iv) But when we rely upon the Holy Spirit, we get what God can do.
- 4) WE NEED TO RESPOND TO HIS PROGRAM THROUGH US (ACTS 1:8)
 - a) We are to be witnesses.
 - i) We are to share the love of Jesus.
 - (1) He will do this through us.
 - (a) If we don't allow Him to do it, then it will not be done.
 - ii) Jesus did not call us to be lawyers.
 - (1) A witness is not a lawyer.
 - (a) A lawyer argues a case.
 - (b) A witness tells what he has seen and heard.
 - iii) If Jesus Christ has done anything for you, then you are to witness to it.
 - (1) You are to tell about it.
 - (2) You are to share the love of Jesus.
 - b) Anyone who is saved can witness.
 - i) If you cannot witness, then you may not be saved.
 - (1) Can't you tell how you got saved?
 - (2) Perhaps you have not seen or heard anything, and that is the reason why you cannot be a witness.
 - c) Make yourself available to His program.
 - i) The greatest ability is availability.
 - (1) It is simply saying the following:
 - (a) Lord Jesus, inhabit my humanity.
 - (b) In the Holy Spirit of God, You have given me power.
 - (c) Now, I am going to be a witness for You and share the saving love of Jesus.
 - d) The word "witness" and the word "martyr" are the same word in the Greek language.
 - i) A martyr is someone who has been killed because of Christ.
 - ii) The word "martyr" and the word "witness" are linked together.
 - (1) We don't have to die physically to die to our pride, ambition, and ego.
 - e) We are to be witnesses, and we can start in our own Jerusalem.
 - i) We begin in Jerusalem and go to Judea and then to the uttermost parts.
 - (1) Acts 1:8
 - ii) Share Jesus Christ.
 - (1) There is someone whom you can bring to Jesus Christ.
 - f) Acts 1:6-8
 - i) The disciples wanted to talk about Bible prophecy.
 - ii) Jesus wanted to talk about proclamation.

- iii) It is time that some of us got our heads out of the clouds of prophecy and got our feet on the sidewalks of soul winning.
- g) We cannot dream what potentiality there may be in our witness.
 - i) A Sunday school teacher led a nineteen-year-old shoe clerk to faith in Christ.
 - (1) The shoe clerk became the great evangelist, Dwight L. Moody.
 - ii) God used Moody to inspire the British pastor, F.B. Meyer, whom God then used to inspire Wilbur Chapman.
 - iii) Chapman was then used in the life of Billy Sunday, who had a worldwide ministry, and millions of people were impacted by Sunday.
 - iv) Billy Sunday held a revival crusade in Charlotte, North Carolina, where there was such a mighty moving of God's power that a prayer meeting was started seeking God to send another revival to Charlotte.
 - v) As a result, Mordecai Ham went to Chalotte, North Carolina, for another crusade, and sixteen-year-old Billy Graham gave his heart to Jesus Christ.
 - vi) Billy Graham preached to kings and princes around the world and on national television.
 - vii) How did all of this start?
 - (1) A Sunday school teacher got serious about soul winning and told a shoe clerk about Jesus.
 - (a) We don't know what we may do when we bring a soul to Jesus Christ.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) Recognize His presence in you.
- b) Receive His promise to you.
- c) Respond to His program through you.
- d) The Lord Jesus is the one who draws people to Himself as He inhabits our humanity and displays His deity.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16