

Theme: The church is empowered by the Spirit for our mission of testifying to Jesus and the Gospel, both locally and around the world.

## I. Intro - The Mission of the Church

- A. A lot of people talk about mission statements now
- B. Many churches work on them - and that is ok
- C. But we are given mission statement in Acts 1:8
- D. What is the mission of the church? Why do we exist?

## II. The Mission of the Church

- A. The power for our mission comes from the Spirit  
But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you**; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.  
Acts 1:8
  - 1. Jesus begins with the source of power: the Spirit
  - 2. This was so important the disciples did not begin the mission until the Spirit came at Pentecost  
On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: **“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”** Acts 1:4–5
  - 3. The American church is tempted to trust in business plans, marketing, & gimmicks to accomplish the mission, but only the Spirit can empower us to do this
  - 4. We have a mission among the dead - no gimmick can raise the dead, but the Spirit can!

- B. The content of our mission is Jesus' Person and Work  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.  
Acts 1:8
  - 1. Our task is to be witnesses for Jesus
  - 2. This includes His Person (God-Man) & work (salvation)
  - 3. This is why we say we are Christ-centered
  - 4. The message we proclaim is not self-improvement or moralism, but the pure Gospel of Christ - His life, death, and resurrection to save us from sin!
  - 5. BRCC does not exist to testify to itself, but to Jesus!
  - 6. We are here to proclaim and make much of Jesus, not us  
For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 2 Corinthians 4:5
    - a. Our message is Jesus
    - b. Our method is serving others - for Jesus' sake
    - c. It is all about Jesus!
  - 7. This means we must keep a kingdom mindset - not a narrow, BRCC focus
- C. The focus of our mission is outward  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses **in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**  
Acts 1:8

1. The Spirit comes, not to entertain us, but to equip us to go out on mission!
2. Jesus commissions us - not to endlessly huddle and minister to ourselves, but to go out on mission!  
Therefore **go and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”  
Matthew 28:19–20
3. This means we gather not to be entertained or to consume ministry, but to worship God and be equipped to go into all the world on mission
4. A local church that is not actively engaged in mission to the world is like a football team that never leaves the huddle!

D. The extent of our mission - from Annapolis to the ends of the earth

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses **in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**  
Acts 1:8

1. Notice that the mission begins locally and extends globally
2. The Spirit is empowering us to proclaim Jesus and serve others both locally and globally
3. We must be on mission locally
  - a. We begin with our Jerusalem - our own families, co-workers, neighbors, and community
  - b. We must labor to serve those in our immediate context

- c. This has implications for us individually
  1. We can not authentically pray for those overseas if we do not serve locally
  2. We must pray for and reach out personally to family, neighbors, coworkers, community
  3. We must simply invite people as well so they can experience Jesus moving in our midst
- d. This has implications for BRCC - contextualize
  1. We must also reach out as a community
  2. We must labor to serve people where they are - not where we want them to be
  3. This includes things like being warm and welcoming - building project, greeting newcomers, etc.
  4. We may not care about ugly building, about coffee, about visual things - but they do, and we must serve them!

4. We must be on mission globally

- a. We move out from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth
- b. This is why we are so engaged in foreign missions - they need to hear the Gospel
- c. David Platt - God blesses his people with extravagant grace so they might extend his extravagant glory to all peoples on the earth.  
“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:2–3
  1. God fulfilled this by sending Jesus

2. We now inherit this great promise
3. We have been blessed to be a blessing - to all nations!

### III. The Cost of Mission

#### A. Our status as God's people is full of blessing

1. We have been redeemed and have access to God
2. We know the joy that comes from a life devoted to glorifying God
3. We have the joy of a life filled with purpose - the fruit of being given a real mission
4. But there is a real cost to the mission God has given us

#### B. The cost of mission

##### 1. Acts & the NT describe the cost of mission

###### a. The mission brought death to many early believers

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

1. "Witness" was a legal term - witness in court
2. When so many faithful witnesses died μάρτυς got a new meaning - martyr
3. Today is All saints day & next week ICC
4. This is the ultimate cost for being faithful to fulfill our mission - and disciples must be willing to pay it

###### b. The mission called them out of their own static, self-focused nationalism into a global perspective

So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:6-8

1. Their primary thoughts are about Israel - it must shift to the world
2. They were waiting for the kingdom to come - Jesus is sending them to take the kingdom everywhere
3. The mission takes the focus off of me, and compels me to go and serve here and around the world

##### c. The mission required believers to give sacrificially

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. Acts 4:32-33

1. They were so committed to the mission, they gave deeply
2. Not talking about communism, but about a new attitude to their possessions
3. They gave to serve and care for others, and to support the mission locally and globally
4. This is seen in 2 Corinthians 8-9; Philippians
5. If we are to partner in mission, both in Annapolis and around the globe, we will have to give sacrificially of our time, money, and our very lives.

##### 2. The cost for us today

- a. The call to the mission of the church still costs today
- b. Any idea that being a disciple will not radically alter my whole life is a selling of the Gospel for the American dream.

- c. If we are to partner in mission, both in Annapolis and around the globe, we will have to give sacrificially of our time, money, and our very lives.
- d. But I remind us - the result of such sacrifice is unending joy!

#### IV. All In To Apply the Word

- A. Remember - all of this flows from God and the Gospel
  - 1. We are not saved by works, but by Christ
  - 2. We do not shift to law, but always live by faith rooted in the Gospel
  - 3. But that Gospel produces a life of radical gratitude - or it has not really been embraced
- B. Describing the life of a disciple
  - 1. We have covered many points in this series
  - 2. Trying to help us see a pattern and a theme in Scripture and in our culture
  - 3. Consider the following table which summarizes it all - which column characterizes me?

American "Dream"	Kingdom Reality
God & His Gospel are optional extras	God & His Gospel are the spring from which real life flows
I come to church to receive and be entertained	I gather as part of the church to worship God and be used by Him to minister to others
True life is finding and expressing myself	True life is dying to myself and finding Christ!
Live as if this world is your home, maximizing your pleasures now	Live knowing that the new heavens and earth are your real home, maximizing your pleasure and joy there
We are blessed - so consume it on ourselves	We have been blessed so we can be a blessing to others
My life is about my plans, dreams and goals	Life is centered on God and His mission in the world, and my life is oriented around that

#### C. Concluding prayer

#### The Church On Mission

Acts 1:8

November 1, 2015

Prayer

Psalm 115:14-15

Teaching keywords: church; evangelism & missions; Holy Spirit

May the Lord make you increase, both you and your children.  
<sup>15</sup>May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalms 115:14–15

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8