

Mission Possible

The Book of Acts

Detailed Outline from the Sermon on April 27, 2008

The Mission

Matthew 28 – the Great Commission

Acts 1:8 – a restatement

Not Jerusalem *or* Judea or Samaria, or the ends of the earth.

Not Jerusalem *then* Judea, then Samaria, then the ends of the earth.

The key word is “*and*”

How has God set your beams? Locally? Regionally? Globally?

All of us – a mission and a ministry. But our mission fields should be according to the scope that God gives each of us.

The Equipment

There’s no suggestion that we should be doing this by our own power.

John 14 and 15, Matthew 28 – the promised Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-13 – the promise fulfilled.

This mission is not something Christ would ask us to do independent of his power and influence. (If the Holy Spirit disappeared from your life today, in what ways would your life be different?)

The Holy Spirit seals and sanctifies forever and for every day.

(2 Thessalonians 2:13, 2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13)

The Holy Spirit gives super natural power, supernatural gifts (and a distribution of roles) counsel, help, comfort and truth.

The Message

Acts 2:23 Peter “23-24, 32-33, 38-39”

Acts 3:6 Silver and gold, 15, 19-20

Acts 4:8-12 Peter

Stephen in Acts 7, Philip in Acts 8, Paul after chapter 9.

The message is simple and clear:
Jesus, crucified, raised, now sitting at God's right hand. Repent, be baptized, enjoy the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus. People began to respond...

The First Steps

The church in its simplest, purest form: 2: 42-47

devoted to the apostles' teaching	filled with awe
fellowship	together with things in common
breaking bread	selling and sharing
prayer	meeting regularly

And the Lord added to their number daily, glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of others.

The Strategy Unfolds

Seven are chosen to serve human needs. Later in the New Testament, elders and pastors are raised up to shepherd churches. The apostles are released to preach, teach, equip and lead the church into the world.

The Resistance

Stephen is stoned to death. (5:11-42)

The church is persecuted and scattered. (8:1-3)

Peter is imprisoned for the first time. (12:1)

Paul and Silas go to jail. (16:22)

They cause a virtual riot in Ephesus (19:23)

The Reinforcements

Early on, Paul is part of the resistance. (8:1-3)

Then God surprises him and everyone else. (9)

Earlier the apostles had cast lots to fill the 12th spot vacated by Judas (Matthias in 1:26).

Paul as a true apostle (1Corinthians 15:9 “as one abnormally born” as if out of season).

Paul is an extraordinary character. No one knows the dead end nature of legalism like Paul...hostility of loveless religion...so his gospel of freedom has implications.

The Dilemma

Peter struggling over the gentile issue (10 and 11).

Paul throws open the door to the gentiles.

The Council at Jerusalem (15).

Peter's words (10:34-36, 15:19).

The Main Launch

The church at Antioch (11:19) – forced there by persecution.

The first team sent out (13:2-3).

They make a loop around the major cities before going back to Jerusalem for the council meeting.

Churches spring up.

The Second Wave

After Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas quarrel (15:36).

Two teams go out: Paul and Silas (Timothy); Barnabas and Mark.

The Tone and Tactics

Acts 13-14, 17-18 show us how the missionaries went about their work.

1. They preach in synagogues.
2. They preach among “god-fearers.”
3. They speak in other places of philosophical debate.
4. They heal and help people along the way.
5. They defend themselves in court.
6. They preach in homes.

As for their *tone*, nothing gives us a clearer picture than 17:17-22, “I see that you are a very religious people.” Respect. Opportunism. Bridge building. Respectful persuasion.

The Gospel Gets to Rome

The last several chapters follow the travails of Paul, finally shipped, then ship-wrecked, then shipped again to Rome. There he teaches and preaches and writes letters from his imprisonment that make up the greater number of books in our New Testament.

Even more, Rome is the hub of the world. Now the gospel goes out toward every continent and people-group.

No, the emerging faith isn't always as simple and pure as it could be. Syncretism and the influence of Roman religions put their stamp on things. Every great renewal movement has been born of Spirit and simplicity; the scriptures in the language of the people and prayer. And even a new hymnology as renewed people sing a new song.