

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: January 8th 2017

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Awaiting the Spirit of Mission

Introduction: This was the first talk in a series on the book of Acts. The talk looks at Acts 1:1-8, which form a sort of 'index' to some of the key themes that we will come across as we walk through the book in 2017.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Acts 1:1-8

Reflect:

- This is Luke's second book (v1) which, like his first book, is addressed to 'Theophilus' (which means 'God-lover'). Why does Luke think his books are important to 'God-lovers'? (see Luke 1:1-4) Knowing what you already do know about Acts, what might be the value of Luke's second book to God-lovers at TBC as we read it this year?
- Imagine having 40 days with Jesus teaching you about the Kingdom of God (3). What issues do you imagine Jesus included when he spoke about the Kingdom of God? Try to back up your answers from Scripture - maybe our previous series on the Sermon on the Mount might give you some ideas (Matthew 5-7).
- In the talk, David picked out four themes from this passage. Here is a question or two related to each theme for you to discuss:
 - **The Reality that is Unfolding** - the story of Jesus in continuing to a new phase (1).
 - What does it mean to the people in your group to be part of the continuing story of Jesus?
 - What difference does that make, both in how you think about yourself and how you think about those around you and the world you live in?
 - **The Role that we are to play** - we are to be Jesus' witnesses (8). A witness is 'someone who gives an honest account of what they have seen, heard or experienced'.
 - How does that definition affect how we think about being Jesus' witnesses?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- Ask people to say what their testimony as a 'witness' is i.e. *what have they seen, heard or experienced of Jesus that is worth passing on to others?*
- Is it easy or hard to be a witness? What makes it easy - and what makes it hard?

- **The resource that we need**
 - What is it?! (v4, 8)
 - Why is the gift of the Holy Spirit so important to being a witness? (see John 14:18-20, 26; 15:26, 27 for some clues).
 - What does it mean to 'wait' for the Holy Spirit? Does it mean, 'do nothing until God shows up'? (see 1:14)

- **The reach of our work.** The apostles were given a big vision (1:8) but they started right where they were, in Jerusalem, which was their 'frontline'.
 - Which is easier and more attractive: the call to travel and 'do mission' for God? Or the call to stay put and 'do mission' for God?
 - How are people doing on their frontlines at the moment?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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