

Acts 1:4-8

Last week we began our summer missions series: Risk, getting the gospel to the riskiest places. Last Sunday and this morning, we are introducing this series by giving a 20,000 feet flyover of Acts 1:8. We are answering 6 questions: who, what, when, where, how, and why. We will then spend the remainder of our series fleshing those six questions out one by one in detail.

READ/Pray

There are 6 questions I want to answer concerning this text. Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How. We saw the first 3 last week, which we will review now and then finish up with the final 3.

I. Who?

The answer to who is You. *You shall receive power*

1. Jesus has made it clear, if we are His followers then this is for us.
2. We have been called from above, from around, from below, and from within!

II. What?

1. The answer to what is Witness. *You will be my witnesses*.
2. A witness is one who has such personal experience with, knowledge of, and relationship with Christ that they are willing to lay down their lives and their all for Christ and His Great Commission.

III. When?

1. The answer to when is the Holy Spirit.
2. We need the power of the Holy Spirit whether we recognize it or not.

Now, let's think about this.

1. This power comes from (with / through) the Holy Spirit
2. This power was not present in their lives.
3. This power was essential to the mission.
4. This power is needed by us today.

IV. Where?

The answer to where is...

1. In Jerusalem and Judea...right here in our circles
2. Samaria...right here and nearby outside of our circles
3. The Uttermost parts of the earth...all the nations
 - a. Matthew 28:18-20...this is a commission to get the gospel, not to as many people as possible, but to as many people groups as possible.
 - b. There are roughly 6000 unreached people groups on earth totaling more than 2 billion people
 1. Unreached does not equal unsaved. There are unsaved people everywhere!
 2. Unreached means that they have little to no access to the gospel.

- c. There are between 1200 and 3000 unreached, unengaged people groups
 - d. *Does anyone deserve to hear the gospel twice, as long as there are those who have never heard it once?*
 - e. What is it going to take for the concept of unreached and unengaged people to become intolerable to us?
4. We are obligated to lay our lives down, our families down, and this church down and do whatever we need to do to get the gospel to the ends of the earth!
 5. We must assume responsibility for more than just our immediate area or we go from Acts 1:8 Christians to Acts 8:1 Christians.

V. How?

1. Praying

- a. Matthew 9:35-38
- b. Get out your cards and let us pray

2. Giving

- a. 1.3 billion people live on less than \$1.50 a day
- b. 2 billion more live on less than \$2.50 a day
- c. 40% of the world makes less than \$900 a year.
- d. If you make more than 32,400 a year you are in the top 1% of the richest people in the world!
- e. *It is hard for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God.*
 1. Could you imagine what a difference it would make if we saw the responsibility that we have to use our resources to get the gospel to the ends of the earth.
 2. The average church attender gives 2.5% of their income to the church
- f. If you really believed the Great Commission was important would you increase your standard of living at every opportunity and keep sending your nickels to the nations OR would you totally revolutionize your lifestyle to give to the cause?

3. Going

- a. Virtually every one of us can serve as missionaries if we are creative enough.
- b. 1 out of every 6 Moravian believers on the 1700's left their homes to spread the gospel to the nations.
- c. Business as mission make it possible to get to the hardest place in this world!

4. Sending

- a. We have used the IMB and the CP as an excuse for long enough!
- b. The IMB does not send missionaries...churches do. We must.
 1. Call out
 2. Train up
 - a. you don't just go because you "feel" called.
 - b. Matthew 23:15. *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.*
 - c. We have to ask, what are we exporting and do what we can!
 3. Then send out!

VI. Why

It is not primarily because you love them.

1. Now we know that it is important to love people.
 - a. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not love I am nothing.
 - b. We may be able to prophesy the future, unlock the mysteries of the past, and have faith enough to move mountains.
 - c. But without love we are nothing.
 - d. But love in not near enough.
2. These people are not very lovable...no they deserve to go to hell. And so do we.
3. If we go to them primarily because we love them, we will discover that they are unlovable.
4. So why go?
 - a. We go primarily for The Glory of God and sake of His Name...with a love for man.
 - b. Psalm 96:3-10a
 - c. He is not worshipped...that is why!

Paris Reidhead, in his sermon 2 Shekels and a Shirt tells the following story about 2 young Moravians that illustrates the ultimate “why” of missions.

In the late 1700's a British planter owned an entire island in the West Indies off the coast of South America. Several thousand slaves toiled in the sugar cane fields under the burning sun. The atheist planter vowed that no missionary would ever set foot on the island to talk about God. He had said, "No preacher, no clergyman, will ever stay on this island. If he's ship wrecked we'll keep him in a separate house until he has to leave, but he's never going to talk to any of us about God."

3000 slaves were doomed to live and die without hearing of Christ.

Two young German Moravians heard of the island. They sold themselves to the British planter for the standard price for a male slave used the money they received for their sale to purchase passage to the West Indies. The Moravian community came to see the two young men off, who would never return again, having freely sold themselves into a lifetime of slavery.

Family members were emotional, weeping. As the ship slipped away with the tide and the gap widened. The housings had been cast off and were curled up on the pier. The young men saw the widening gap. They linked arms, raised their hands and shouted across the spreading gap "*May the Lamb that was slain receive the reward of His suffering.*"

We go so that the Lamb may receive the full reward of His suffering.

Conclusion:

1. Who? You
2. What? Witnesses
3. When? When the Holy Spirit has come upon us
4. Where? Jerusalem and Judea, Samaria, and the Ends of the Earth
5. How? Praying, Giving, Going, and Sending
6. Why? For the Glory of God and the fame of the Name of Jesus Christ