

LOVE, SERVE

Part 1: "Send!"

Matthew 28.18-20 "Jesus said to them, All power is given to Me in heaven and earth. *Therefore I want you to go* and teach all people, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you, and take note, I am with you always, even to the end of the world..."

Mark 16.15-18 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone! The ones who believe and are baptized will be saved; *the ones that don't believe will be separated forever*. And these signs *will follow those that believe*: in My name they will cast out devils, they will speak with new tongues, they will take away 'serpents' and if they drink anything harmful it will not hurt them, they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover!"

Luke 24.46-53 "It is written, that Jesus should suffer and die and resurrect from the dead the third day and *that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem*, and look, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but *wait in Jerusalem* until you are endowed with power from on High..."

Luke, Acts 1 "The disciples asked Him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' 'That's not your concern, it's in the Father's control. But you will receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you *and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the earth...*'"

Luke 24.46-53 And He led them out as far as Bethany and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. And as He did, He was departing from them, ascending into heaven. And they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy and were in the temple continuously praising and blessing God!"

The Scene... The last seven weeks have been weird! On the verge of ruling with the "Christ!" Overturned by a crazed mob... Looking for a miracle deliverance of the One who delivered so many... DEATH! Unbelievable death! Hope revived in resurrection visitations!

Mary at the **tomb J20.16**, Emmaus walk **Lk24.31**, Special meeting with Peter **Lk 24.34**, **1Cor15.5**, upper room **Mk 16.14**, Thomas, eight days later **J20.26**, 500 more **1Cor15.6**, then James **15.7**

Joy restored in His forty day presence!

"He showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs and spoke to them concerning the kingdom of God!" **A1.3**

Weirdness returns as He says good-bye and lifts off! **Lk 24.50ff, A1.10**

Now waiting for... *the promise! 10 days!*

Jesus final commands were pretty clear! His followers were to "go" and preach and teach and demonstrate the kingdom of God! They were to "wait" for power from on high then "go" worldwide... and... they didn't!

Checking the Facts... They preached and taught *in Jerusalem* and 3,000 souls came to Christ! **A2** They demonstrated the power of God with the lame man healed *at the temple...* **A3** Preached Jesus some more and "5,000 men" (plus gals/kids) were added! **A4** Demonstrated peace in persecution... and *the Jerusalem City jail*. **A4-5** More miracles: of giving, of fidelity, angels, boldness – *in Jerusalem!* **A5.28**

Solved distribution problems in the church and rallied new volunteers who were wonder-full! **A6**

"And the word of God increased and the number of disciples multiplied *in Jerusalem* greatly and a great number of priests were obedient to the faith and Stephen, full of faith and power did great wonders and miracles among the people!" **A6**

He preaches a passionate message of repentance and reports an open heaven with his final breath *in Jerusalem!* **A7**

Then the Christian Dispersion...

“And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was (still) *at Jerusalem*, and they were all *scattered* abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria...” **Acts 8.1** Dispersion: Diaspora: Diaspeiro... Sounds bad until you acknowledge what is thought of as evil against us, God turns for our good! **Gen 50.20**
IN GOD’S HANDS “SCATTERING” TURNS TO “SOWING” AND

“DISTRIBUTION” of His people!

Asides... WHY? Why do we always have to come to “the end” of something to obey? For 5-7 years the early church did good things *within their comfort zone!* It took real persecution to get them to fulfill the earlier commands! Resistance would be understandable without the Holy Spirit – Overwhelming! Impossible to sustain! But with the Holy Spirit, **A2**, impossible to ignore!

Will we ever become obedient simply by choice to do what He asks because He is our Savior and Lord?

Final Point... We have all been called to “go” and proclaim the good news! All called to bring people to salvation! We know it’s the gold standard of God to have people saved thru our lives! To listen for the cries and offer the hope of peace, comfort and power thru salvation! To rely on Holy Spirit power within us to overcome “us” and all other hindrances!

It’s destructive to the Church Jesus builds to disobey our commission... Acts 2.1-11

“And when the Day of Pentecost was fully come... the Holy Ghost appeared... and all the devout Jews, having come to Jerusalem; Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, from Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, from Egypt and Libya around Cyrene and strangers from Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians... heard them speak, in their own tongues, the wonderful works of God!”

Those people, like so many others today, had to make pilgrimages to renew their faith...

But Jesus was commissioning a church that would take refreshing to the world!

For generations a mostly disobedient church has been doing good things in their comfort zone... For generations a mostly disobedient church has been waiting for people to come to them... And we will never be more than *one of* the world religions until we go to them!

We must let them see the real church... loving, searching, reaching out, to rescue them!

The mechanics are being put in place for training to “go” and obey... be ready to say “yes!”

John 4 (exhortation)