

JESUS OUR MISSION: SENT WITH HIS POWER

Acts 1:4-8 (ESV)

⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

INTRODUCTION:

In Acts 1:4–8 and Luke 24:45–49, Jesus makes His mission clear: repentance and forgiveness will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. He promises the Holy Spirit to empower His disciples, calls them to be His witnesses, and sends them to reach the world with the good news. This mission is not optional, it is the heartbeat of the church, and it must be the heartbeat of our church as well.

DISCUSS:

1. Empowered by The Spirit (Acts 1:4–5, 8a)

Jesus told His disciples to wait until they were “clothed with power from on high.” Mission begins not with human effort but with divine empowerment. Without the Spirit, we remain fearful and ineffective; with the Spirit, we are bold and faithful.

How does waiting for the Spirit challenge our tendency to rush ahead with our own plans? In what ways have you experienced the Spirit’s empowerment in your life or ministry?

2. Called To Witness (Acts 1:6–7, 8b)

The disciples asked about restoring Israel’s kingdom, but Jesus redirected His disciples from questions about kingdoms and power to the mission of bearing witness. The heart of the message is repentance and forgiveness in His name. To be His disciples is to testify to what we have seen and experienced of Christ.

How can we keep our witness centred on Jesus rather than on ourselves or our activities? In what simple, natural ways can you share Christ’s forgiveness, peace, and guidance with those around you?

3. Reaching the World (Acts 1:8c; Luke 24:47)

Jesus said the mission begins at Jerusalem but must move outward to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. The gospel is never meant to remain confined, it crosses boundaries of culture, comfort, and geography. Mission is not limited to our circle; it ripples outward until all nations hear the good news.

Who might be your “Samaria” - those different from you or those who are difficult to be loved by you, yet still loved by Christ? How can you take steps to let your witness ripple outward?

Pray:

1. For Empowerment by The Spirit:

Holy Spirit, clothe us afresh with Your power from on high. We confess that too often we rush ahead with our own plans, relying on our strength and strategies. But without You, we are weak and fearful. With You, we are bold and faithful. Empower us to be lights in the darkness, so that our witness flows not from human effort but from You within us.

2. For Called To Witness:

Lord Jesus, keep our eyes fixed on You, the author and finisher of our faith. Thank You for entrusting us with the message of repentance and forgiveness in Your name. Guard us from distractions that shift attention away from You. May our words and lives point clearly to Your grace and peace, so that others encounter You through us. Help us to speak sincerely of what You have done, so that our witness is always about You alone.

3. For Reaching The World:

Father, send us beyond our comfort zones. Just as the gospel began in Jerusalem and rippled outward to Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth, let our witness begin where we are but not remain there. Show us who our "Samaria" is; those different from us, yet loved by You. Give us courage to cross boundaries of culture, language, and convenience, so that Your good news reaches all nations. May our lives be like ripples in a pond, carrying Your mission outward until every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord.