

Christ Church Clifton Sermon Notes & Questions



Series: Thy Kingdom Come: The purpose of pentecost

Passage: Acts 1:1-8 & Acts 2:1-12

Preacher: Tim Meathrel

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Sermon Notes: Family

Bill Hybels says *'The local church is the hope of the nation'*

- Why – why is that true? Why do I believe that?
- Think about the state of our nations: terrorism, violent crimes, sexual crimes, corruption of power, deceit of wealth etc
- Can government really do anything about this? They can enforce law – but can they change the human heart?
- *"Hurt people, hurt people"* Broken people, break things and other people. What hope do we have for those in a society like that? Where can they go to have their lives transformed?
- The only power that can transform a person's life is the love and power of God experienced through the presence of the HS
- This is the message given to the church. This is the good news that Jesus came and proclaimed & demonstrated and the church is now the carrier of that message.

Church has the monopoly on hope but only because it has POWER

Danger we face as Christians is trying to do evangelism in our own strength

When we try and do evangelism and witness in our own strength they're not very fruitful! That's because we were never designed to do evangelism & witness in our own strength. God's idea for evangelism is for us to wait for his power and only then to be his witnesses

God gives us his power to be witnesses - This is the purpose of Pentecost

Acts 1:1-8

Jesus telling his disciples the most important things that they need to know before he returns to the Father. He teaches them about the kingdom of God and then tells them to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Spirit which is the gift of power. Power for what...

'you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth'

Power for evangelism and witness!

Acts 2:1-12

The fulfilment of OT prophecy and the fulfilment of Jesus' promise as the Holy Spirit comes in a new way. The disciples gathered all together in one place waiting, waiting for the fulfilment of a promise. I suspect that they weren't just sitting there. They would have been praying together, worshipping together and receiving the ministry of the word together. In this context - The Spirit falls. The Spirit gives the disciples the incredible gift of speaking in foreign languages. Languages understood by all the Jews who had gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish celebration of Shavuot (Celebrating God's giving of the commandments).

Here is the purpose of Pentecost

Power is always given to the church for mission

- Acts 2 – Pentecost – Peter's sermon -> 3000 converts
- Acts 4:31 – Prison – prayer – HS -> spoke the word boldly
- Acts 5 – the apostle healed many – Peter's shadow -> many more believed
- Acts 6 – choosing of the 7 – Stephen & Philip
- Acts 9 – Saul becomes Paul – 'see again and be filled with the HS' -> apostle to the gentiles

- Acts 11 – Barnabas’ ministry in Antioch – the first missionary church – Barnabas ‘a good man full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord’

How can I receive this power?

Wait

Jesus tells his first disciples to wait for power from on high. Wait for the filling of the Holy Spirit

God calls us to wait on him for his power even today. Why?

- Because it reminds us that the power is his and not ours
- Waiting is humbling
- Waiting is an act of surrender
- Waiting is an act of dependence
- God gives his power to those who are humble, surrendered and dependent upon him

Questions

1. Bill Hybels says *‘The local church is the hope of the nation’*. Do you agree with this statement?
2. Tim said ‘The church has the monopoly on hope’ – is this true? Why/why not?
3. Have you ever tried to do evangelism “in your own strength”? What did it look like? What were the results?
4. Look at Acts 1:1-8. Ask someone in the group to describe in their own words what was happening. Why did Jesus tell his disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit? Why is it significant?
5. Look at Acts 2:1-12 – what would you describe as the purpose of Pentecost? You might want to look at some of my other references from the book of Acts here.
6. Why is waiting on God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and his power important for us as believers today?