

Sermon Text Discussion 8/13/2017

Acts 1-8: "The First Years" by Drew Hunter

Overview

Acts records revolutionary changes in the world that took place over only about 30 years. In the first eight chapters, six themes are evident.

1. The Church's mission
2. The spreading word
3. The empowering Spirit
4. The multiplying Church
5. The inescapable suffering
6. The explosion of joy

Quotations

"Look what God did in 30 years. And let's ask this question: what is God able to do in the next 30 years? It's 2017... what might the Lord do through Zionsville Fellowship by 2047. What will he do through *you*?" -Drew Hunter

"An ongoing danger of every church is that we would become ingrown. And that happens when we turn exclusively inward. It happens when we focus only on our church life, and we don't focus outward on sharing the gospel with those who don't know Christ." -Drew Hunter

"So, how should you answer these questions? Why am I here? What is the purpose of my life? What should I be encouraging other Christians to do with their lives? What are we supposed to be all about as a church? Here's the answer: we are to live on mission to our neighbors and the nations." -Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) Drew noted that we have a natural desire for rest and comfort. Why might seeking those things be inappropriate for this age? (Consider passages like Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, Ephesians 6:10-12, and 2 Timothy 2:3-4.) To what extent does apathy in mission characterize your life? Zionsville Fellowship as a whole?
- 2) Why can racial prejudice be considered something that directly opposes the gospel and the Great Commission? Is there anything you need to repent of in that regard? What other attitudes run contrary to God's mission?
- 3) Drew stated that our role is to (1) get the gospel in front of those who have not embraced it, (2) pray for the Spirit's work in their hearts, and (3) love them while we wait. Describe each of these steps and discuss its importance.
- 4) If Zionsville Fellowship were to become the kind of community described in Acts 5:14 and 6:7, what challenges would we face? What kind of challenges would come from inside the church? From outside? What should we do now to be ready for such a multiplication of disciples?
- 5) What might lead to the explosion of joy Drew mentioned? Would it precede or only follow a great multiplication of disciples? How would it fuel the mission God has given us?