

THE CHURCH BEYOND

FROM THE EMPTY GRAVE TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



SERMON NOTES: THE CHURCH BEYOND 1: CROSS, KINGDOM & POWER (3/4/16)

SCRIPTURE

Acts Chapter 1

KEY POINTS

- + Jesus' disciples have moved from flakey, doubting and foolish to passionate, devoted and wise. They are called Apostles, meaning 'sent ones'
- + Their gatherings were based in three key things:
 - + the realisation of what Jesus did on the cross
 - + all that Jesus had taught them about the Kingdom
 - + that power (the Holy Spirit) would come
- + There is a change in direction—from people coming to Israel to find out about the one true God, to now God's people being sent out to tell others about the one true God
- + It is impossible for the Church to be the Church without the Spirit. Likewise, it is possible for 'impossible' cultures to be cracked (Rome, Melbourne!) by the Spirit.
- + There is a 'family tree' of discipleship that leads from the eleven disciples to you—and that chain is not meant to end with you!

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + 'outward' call of apostles? What can we do to ensure we are moving forward under Jesus' vision for his kingdom, and not our own?
 - + From the very beginning, the believers understood and practiced dependence on God through continued, united prayer (Acts 1:14). How might God be calling you personally, and the church corporately, to this practice?
 - + **What stuck out to you from the teaching?** Did God remind you of something, or reveal something new? Did the Spirit minister to you?
 - + **Were any questions raised for you?** Did you get stuck on any scriptures or points? Anything you need clarity on?
 - + **Where do we see Jesus Christ in this teaching?** Jesus is at the centre of everything in the Scriptures. It follows that he is at the centre of everything we understand about church, faith and the Kingdom. What in the teaching has helped you see more of Jesus and the cross, or moved you to love him more?
 - + **How can you personally apply this teaching?** Identify and commit to something you sense the Spirit is leading you to do in obedient response. Make it actionable and personal. What is in place to help you stay accountable to this?
 - + **What/with whom can you share from here?** Who in your life needs to know the truth you've discovered? How can you share it with them?
- + It is critical that churches are based in all three of those elements: the cross, the Kingdom, and the power of the Holy Spirit. How do we see these characterise the early church? Do they characterise our church today? Where do you see the fruit of this, and where are the areas for growth?
 - + The disciples still struggled to consider a Kingdom that was beyond their own nation (Acts 1:6). There is always a temptation for the church today to disproportionately invest inwardly. How actively do you/does Red church engage in the