

The Church Today (Part 4) The Formation of the Church (Acts 1:1-11)

Introduction: I want to speak today on the subject of the formation of church; "five things that Jesus left the church." Because I believe, as a born-again believer, and a member of the body of Christ, and the church, I think we should be interested in what Jesus left for you and for me. As this passage of Scripture opens the Book of Acts, Christ has completed His earthly ministry. He accomplished everything that God sent Him into the world to do. Now He is commissioning His disciples to carry on the work that He would have them to do until He would return for them one day. So, when Jesus went away there are five wonderful things that He left the church that we need to look at today.

I. An unfinished task:

A. The task given - I believe Jesus wanted His disciples to hear very clearly the task He had given them to do.

1. Jesus said, He wanted us to finish reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. If we are to finish and accomplish that task going onto (penetrating) the world, He also taught us, how.
 - a. 2 Cor. 6:17 *I believe today that God is looking for a people, a group of believers, on this earth who will stand for Him, who will live for Him, who will live lives completely committed and dedicated to Him.*
 - b. Jn. 13:35 Jesus taught us that we must season our lives in love. (Rom. 12:10; 1Thes. 4:9; Heb. 13:1)

B. The task accepted –

1. Not every child of God is going to be like that in the last days.
2. But the ones who will be going to find that God is going to use them in a special and unique way to accomplish this unfinished task.

It ought to be unmistakable when people look at us, when people listen to us, when people come in our midst, they will know that we have been with Jesus and our lives have been touched by His love and by His compassion so that we may finish the unfinished task of reaching the lost at any cost.

The most important thing we as the church need to be focused on, is the unfinished task that Jesus gave us to do.

Jesus said, "my Father has sent me, now so send I you."

Jesus said, "The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost."

II. An unchallenged message: Here Jesus tells His disciples, rather than worrying about times and dates, after you have been spiritually empowered – focus on sharing the unchallenged message of the gospel of Jesus Christ! (That is what a witness does!)

A. Our message will be challenged - When Jesus was here the Scribes and Pharisees challenged His message again and again.

B. Our unchallenged message is;

1. **That Jesus Christ is the divine, virgin born Son of God.**
 - (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Jer. 31:22; Mt. 1:23; Lk. 1:35; Lk. 2:11)

- (Heb. 4:15; 7:26-27; Mt. 1:20; Lk. 1:34)
- If Jesus is not virgin born, none of scripture can be counted as true (from its prophecies to its history it proclaims Jesus would be born of a virgin. (Gen. 3:15 - Lk. 1:1-4))

We have an unchallenged message – Jesus is the divine Son God a Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, being fully man and fully God, He came to be the Savior of man.

2. **His grace is sufficient to save** every person no matter how deep in sin, no matter how lost, no matter how rebellious.
 - a. When you and I come to Jesus Christ, we come to the cross, we come as sinners to ask Him to be our Savior. It is the grace of God that meets us there and changes our lives – giving us new and eternal life in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:23)
 - b. The Bible says, "It is not by works less any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9)

III. An unlimited power: in verse 8 that He left us an unlimited power.

A. Jesus gives an incredible statement.

1. Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 said we are to go into all the world and preach the gospel.
2. The Bible says this is the commission He has given to us. But along with that commission, He gave us the promise of His power, the unlimited power of God.

B. Jesus gives us an incredible Spirit.

1. The Bible commands every child of God, every church leader, every teacher, every believer, to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God.
2. Ephesians 5:18 says, "*be not drunk with wine... but be ye filled with the Spirit.*"
 - a. It is not a matter of you just being faithful; it is a matter of yielding totally and completely to the person of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. To be filled with the person and the power of God's Holy Spirit, we have to be filled with God's Spirit to share the message of Christ.
 - c. We also have to be filled with God's Spirit to suffer victoriously for Christ. (Acts 16:25; Eph. 5:19-20; Col. 3:16)

Paul and Silas were not doubting or pouting. No! They were praying, praising God, and singing at the midnight hour! This is a power available to every child of God who will cleanse himself of sin and yield themselves totally to the Spirit of God.

IV. An unshakeable testimony: (Mt. 24:35), "... my Word will never pass away."

1. **We know, this world and the material universe** are going to one day melt with fervent heat, *but we as believers have an unshakeable testimony.*
2. **That unshakeable testimony is the Word of God.** *Jesus says you will be witnesses unto me.*

V. An unfailing promise: (v.11) "...This same Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven will so come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven."