



SERMON NOTES

4orty-4our - Part 2 - Acts 1:8-26

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WITNESSES OF JESUS (*Acts 1:1-5*)

WITNESSES TO THE TRUTH (*Acts 1:6-8*)

WITNESSES OF THE SPIRIT'S POWER (*Acts 1:8*)

WITNESSES TO CHRIST ASCENSION (*Acts 1:9-11*)

Acts 1:9-11 (NLT)

⁹ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

The ascension of Christ concluded the earthly ministry of Christ in bodily form. His birth, His resurrection, His ascension and His return are all supernatural events.

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure” (*1 John 3:2-3*).

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WITNESS OF LEADERSHIP (*Acts 1:12-14*)

Acts 1:12-14 (NLT)

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. ¹³ When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the Zealot), and Judas (son of James). ¹⁴ They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

This second half the Acts 1 we see the disciple's fellowshiping, praying, studying, recruiting volunteers and choosing leaders. Preparation is paramount to anyone's success. David beat Goliath because he was prepared. Jesus prepared 30 years for 3 years of ministry.

WITNESS OF THE WORD (*Acts 1:15-26*)

Acts 1:15-26 (NLT)

¹⁵ During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. ¹⁶ "Brothers," he said, "the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. ¹⁷ Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us." ¹⁸ (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. ¹⁹ The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name Akeldama, which means "Field of Blood.") ²⁰ Peter continued, "This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, 'Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.' It also says,

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'Let someone else take his position.'²¹ "So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus—²² from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus' resurrection."²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias.²⁴ Then they all prayed, "O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen²⁵ as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs."²⁶ Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.

Peter does four things:

1. He makes the matter of Judas' failure a public issue (Vs. 17-18). "But those elders who are sinning you are to reprove before everyone, so that the others may take warning." 1 Tim. 5:20 (NIV) Naming the sin and the resulting consequences of his "treachery."
2. He explains the context in which it happened.
3. Peter acknowledged the hurt that everyone felt due to Judas' demise.
4. Peter turns the Judas matter over to God. "for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs."