

Recap of 2/7/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 1:7-8):

1. In His last words to the Disciples before He ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:7,8), Jesus instructed them in the “one mission,” the great commission of the Church, that of being witnesses about His life, death, burial, and resurrection, thus making Him known to a needy world.

-“The theme of the church—the Great Commission”—to witness to Jesus Christ.” (Gangel)

-The lone missions of the church—“making Christ known,” accomplished by “the witness of all her members....” (G. Campbell Morgan)

-“This is not given only to a corporate body, to the church as a body; it is not a corporate commission. This is a very personal command to each believer personally, privately.” (McGee)

-“The test question for each of us: How far am I living—thinking, speaking, doing—so that the Lord may be seen and heard and known? The measure in which every Christian soul is a living witness, is the measure in which the Christian church is fulfilling her true mission.” (Morgan)

-“The proper work for the Christian is witness, not apology, and Psalm 124 is an excellent model” (Peterson). He goes to explain that the Psalm doesn’t answer the “why” questions but rather “How does it happen that there are people who sing with such confidence, ‘God is our help?’” Witness, not apology.

2. To encourage them in their mission, Jesus reminds them of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. It takes spiritual enablement to communicate the gospel effectively. The Holy Spirit would enable them to do that. The word translated “power” means “authority and energy.” It is empowerment, enablement, ability, capability.

3. “Power from the Holy Spirit is not limited to strength beyond the ordinary—it involves courage, boldness, confidence, insight, ability, and authority. The disciples would need all these to fulfill their mission.” (Life Application Bible).