



LET'S GO DEEPER

WHEN JESUS ... Calls His Witnesses – April 21st 2024 – Pastor Peter

Acts 1:6-14 “So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking Him, ‘Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?’ He replied, ‘The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’ After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ‘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!’ Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. 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). 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.”

1. His Witnesses Have Humility

The first thing Jesus wants for His witnesses is that His witnesses have humility.

Of all the questions his disciples could ask, this is it.

Acts 1:6 “So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking Him, ‘Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?’”

They still expect He’s going to run off the Roman oppressors and set up God’s physical kingdom for the Jewish people.

Here’s what Jesus says,

Acts 1:7 “He replied, ‘The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.’”

QUESTIONS:

1. Why do you think the disciples were so focused on the restore of the Israel Kingdom?

2. What do you think of that posture by the disciples?

3. Where should our focus be, us or God?

4. What does God require from us?



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At least twice before, the issue of the Kingdom and their position in the Kingdom comes up.

Mark 9:33,34 "After they arrived at Capernaum and settled in a house, Jesus asked His disciples, 'What were you discussing out on the road?' But they didn't answer, because they had been arguing about which of them was the greatest."

Matt. 20:20,21,24 "Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favour. 'What is your request?' He asked. She replied, 'In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honour next to You, one on Your right and the other on Your left.' When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant."

Are you going to restore the Kingdom meaning, 'We want places of power and prominence and position.'

The question is motivated by pride and ambition and competitiveness which is why Jesus answers like He does.

They think they need a place of prominence and power when what they really need is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ultimately, what does God require of us?

Micah 6:8 "O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

Power with pride is a disaster. Power with humility is dynamite.

2. His Witnesses Are Obedient

It was just a few days before that day on the Mount of Olives that Jesus told His disciples to stay and Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father.

So will they now obey what Jesus just said and stay?

Acts 1:12 "Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile."

1. Why is obedience so important when following Jesus?

2. What is the impact of the obedience to Jesus in our lives?

3. What would have happened if the disciples disobeyed Jesus and would have return each one to their homes?



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They obey.

1 Sam. 15:22 “What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.”

God wants us to obey what He says. He wants us to be in the right place to receive all that He has for us. He wants us to do what He asks and live as He directs.

Some of us are struggling and we're not living the abundant life the way God intends simply because we're not walking in obedience and our disobedience is blocking His blessing.

When we know what Jesus says and obey what Jesus says that will put us in the right place to receive all that He has for us.

3. His Witnesses Have Perseverance

Acts 1:12-14 “Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying... They all met together and were constantly united in prayer...”

They have no idea what the Promise is or how it's going to come but they're all in for however long it takes.

1 Cor. 15:6 “After that, He was seen by more than 500 of His followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.”

On the Day of Pentecost the Bible says 120 followers were praying together.

500 minus 120 is 380 of His followers who weren't persevering in prayer in Jerusalem that day.

For whatever reason, 380 followers of Jesus miss the powerful fulfillment of prophetic expectation on the Day of Pentecost.

God sends the prophet Samuel to anoint a new king.

1. What was the result of the perseverance of the 120 followers of Jesus?

2. Why do you think it is hard to persevere?

3. What is the result if we persevere in God?

4. What can you do to persevere more in God's obedience?
