

Acts 1:8b Anchored and Moving Forward with a Heart for the Lost

Two weeks ago on the first Sunday in 2010 we started a study in the book of Acts –

the better part of this Year!

A) We are calling this Study in the book of Acts “the Revolution” –

Aa) if you follow **media trends** you know that Revolution is sort of a buzz word in and out of the Church right now -

B) It seems that everyone is using that word!

C) The reason I picked the phrase Revolution as the title of our study in the book of Acts **is not** because I think we need to start a Revolution

1) Or that the world is in need of some

New REVOLUTION

See Jesus in the first Century AD started a REVOLUTION – that continues to this Very Day!

LOVE REVOLUTION

A) It started when He died on the Cross – **technically** it started with his birth – God invaded a world – that was run by Satan.

B) Jesus came to **rescue man and redeem** the world back to Himself

1) [**Christmas series The Invasion**] – Baby Jesus in Military Fatigues

C) But the Revolution went into full force when Jesus died on the Cross in AD 32 and Rose again 3 days later to “**Destroy the works of the Devil.**”

D) **That revolution** continues to this very day and Jesus works by His

Holy Spirit **IN & THRU the life of His Church.**

1)Our need **IS NOT a New revolution – but to simply make sure that we are a part of the Revolution Jesus began**

E)A Revolution marked by loving others more than we love ourselves

1)Marked by lives empowered by the Holy Spirit living in a Dark world

F)Are we a part of the Jesus Revolution ?

Now last week I also mentioned that we are going to divide the book of Acts into 4 different sections – See book naturally does this.

**A) Chapters 1-5 Focus on the beginnings of the early Church.
Anchored and moving forward.**

Chapters 6-10 “The Power of a Pure Gospel” The spreading of the gospel to other areas.

Chapters 11-19 “The Power of Living for a Mission” what happens when we lay down our personal agenda and pick up God’s.

MAJOR SHIFTS IN THE THINKING OF THE CHURCH.

Chapters 20-28 “The Power of Absolute Surrender” focus is on Paul in which we will examine the impact of one life completely surrendered to God.

This first section we are calling Anchored and moving forward. – That Phrase is sort of an Oxymoron.

A)Oxymoron: Two opposites that we put together – really don’t fit but somehow make sense to us. EXAMPLES

**Open – Secret
Picture: Act – naturally**

**Found – Missing
The Larger half
Now- Then
Unbiased opinion
Genuine – imitation**

Anchored and moving Forward.

B) We hear the term Anchored and we think – Planted/ still – stopped/ secure

1) But in Rock Climbing – Anchored is a Key for moving forward – climbing higher

C) That is where we find the early Church in Acts 1-5 – Anchored in their faith in the Person of Jesus Christ – Convinced – Messiah the Lord

1) Ready to die

D) And because of that they were moving forward to carry out the mission that Jesus had commissioned to them

E) Last time: Focus – Moving forward dependant upon the Holy Spirit.

Today: Anchored and moving forward with a heart for the Lost! – Once again Acts 1:8 **Read Verse**

A) One of the things that the early Church clearly understood that we often forget is that **THEY WERE SENT ONES.**

B) I asked you to turn to **Mark 11 { This is the last week of His earthly life prior to going to the Cross**

C) Triumphant entry – Jesus makes his way to the temple – finds that there is a swap meet going on there temple courtyard { **Watch what happens**

15 So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and

began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple.

V.17 He gives an explanation of why he did this:

“Then He taught, saying to them, 'Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'”

Now there is debate as to **what Jesus was angry about-** why he would be so incensed that they were doing this.

A)Some say Jesus doesn't want us **selling things in the Lobby – that is the issue.**

Aa)Churches can go overboard on this but- I don't think that was the issue

B)Others say it is about Prayer: Jesus was upset because He wants the temple to be a place of prayer – and they weren't praying

C)Use this text to say: The Church needs to be a place of prayer and Jesus gets upset when we are not praying.

Now it is true that Jesus wants His people to be a praying people.

A)Prayer – mark of intimacy – mark of dependency

B)And there are other passages that teach us the importance of prayer as a part of the body of Christ,

but I don't think that is the primary meaning of this passage or the reason why Jesus was do upset.

C)So what was Jesus so angry about ? I think the key is in the verse that

he quoted. Isaiah 56:7

1) The temple was to be called a house of prayer for all nations.

D)The idea of the house of God being a place for prayer is found all over the OT.

E))But there is only one place in the OT where the phrase a house of prayer for **ALL NATIONS** is used Isaiah 56:7

And it is that passage that Jesus chose to quote on this particular occasion – which means the key is in the phrase *for all nations*

A)He quote from Isaiah 56 a passage that is all about God’s desire for the foreigner to be able to come to him and meet with him at the temple.

Aa)God’s plan of Evangelism in the OT was simple – He said –build me a temple and I will live there and **let the other nations come to me there**

B)Those who were seeking me could come and meet with me there.

C)But over the years that message had become completely corrupted

1)And by the time that Jesus came on the scene the Jews were completely hoarding the temple

D)They said: If you are a Eunuch you can’t come – a woman – sorry Handicapped – nada – Gentile –NO WAY

A Tablet was found at Herod’s temple with this warning –“No Gentile may enter within the railing around the sanctuary and within the enclosure. Whosoever should be caught will render himself liable to the death penalty which will inevitably follow.”

The Jews completely missed God’s heart and plan for them to be a light

to the others nations.

A)OT model of Evangelism was to be You bring the lost to the temple and they will find me there.

B)The N.T. model is – SENT ONES

C)Christ doesn't dwell in a temple!

1)He says we are the temple –

D)He lives now in believers. He is sending us to the world.

Last week we looked at John 20 Turn– Disciples were first born again and indwelt w/ the Holy Spirit.

John 20:21-22

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

The Father sent me I am sending you!

A)You now be the temple – you be the place where sinners can meet with God.

Aa)I will live in you through my Holy Spirit and you take me to them!

B)NT plan of Evangelism – God sent His son – and now the Son sends His disciples.

C)The New Testament is a SENDING STORY!

Did Jesus understand that He was sent? – Exercise

John 5:23

“He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

John 5:24

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life."

John 5:30

“I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”

John 5:36-37

“But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish — the very works that I do — bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me. 37 And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me.”

John 6:29

“Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

John 6:38-40

“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. 40 And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 9:4

“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day;”

John 17:3

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Yea I would say that I think Jesus was really Clear about the fact that He was sent –

A)But on that same night – Jesus introduced the 2nd part of the NT plan of Evangelism – John 17:15-18

John 17:15-19

“ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

Note Jesus doesn't pray that we be taken out of the world –

A)That is what some Christians seek to do – Take themselves out of the world

B)Work with Christians – live in a neighborhood full of Christians

1)Groceries Christian store – Gas...../ Restaurants

C)Jesus said I didn't pray that you would take them out of the world - Safe

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

John 17 is easy to outline:

We are called to be in the world,

**but not of the world,
because we are sent to the world.**

This was to be the Christian life 2,000 yrs ago – and it is to be the Christian life today.

Fictional Story: Jesus returns to heaven after Rez – talking to the Angel Gaberial – people were rough on you weren't they – yes – Didn't get what you came to do – No
How are you going to reach them – What your plan

See those 12 men – that is my plan – those guys – Plan B

That is a fictional story but the point of it is True – The Plan of Jesus for reaching the world is through – ordinary pp like you and me

A) Misfits, uneducated, unarticulate, dysfunctional

B) Here is how we can respond to the Plan – There is NO Plan B- wow that is a lot of pressure on me –

1) I don't know – feel burdened

C) Or you can look at it this way! There is no plan B

D) The ways of God are perfect and true – He is the only wise God.

1) This is exciting – If I let Him – God will do something with my life that I could never imagine.

D) Sent us into the world – in it but not of it – and the Goal is not Survival

God wants to use me – Lord here I am send me - 12 nations – shared with 10's of thousands - never imagine – shy introverted guy – Only 1 year of college{ God would do that with. –

Begins with a Change in our mindset – Understanding that we are sent ones

Turn John 4:32-35

Jesus John 4 shares with the women at the well – the disciples come back here is your food - John 4:32-37

32 But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." -

33 Therefore the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

Jesus wants us to experience that same thing – to be spiritually satisfied by doing what He has called us to do.

Being Sent ones – How do I know notice how it continues you

35 Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! HARVEST IS NOW!

See People as a Ripe Harvest: Vista High / Camp Pendleton/ Gym

A)If you are a Disciple of Jesus you are called to be sent ones

B)If we are the church of Jesus we will be a sending Church

What does that look like Practically! 3 Ways

1. We send people locally. – Signs

You are now entering the mission field.

A) We want you to have a different mindset about your life.

1) Neighborhood – Mission field – do you know your neighbors – Know their names –

B) Unsaved Friend – who comes to mind – is there someone

C) In some ways it is understandable that someone doesn't immediately come to your mind.

D) Some of you saved 10 yrs – non saved friends – saved or forsaken

1) Safe and secure in Christian circles – Ministry –

2) Time to make some new ones

Your work place – not just to earn a paycheck – bigger reason – Mission field

A) Salt and Light – Salt permeate – build relationships

C) Coaching pop warner football – little league baseball – not there to win games – there to impact lives – parents and kids

D) School {Not just there to get an education

Start as a Goal – Lord build relationships of those around me

Opportunities this year

Feb outreach with Ebo Elder

April 4 Easter in the Moonlight

April – Outreach Victor Marx

May or June – Joey Buran –

Summer heading into Fall – Luis Palau CityFest

**All year local mission fields sending people to
Camp Pendleton / Jails 20 pp / rehabs / Convalescent homes - Birth
Choice / PRC – get involved**

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

2. We send people Globally.

A) Vision for Missions and Church planting – I was the 2nd pastor sent out by this Church in 1991 to Church plant

B) Came back – that same heart - in the last 13 yrs we have sent out 20 families to go plant Churches or assist in existing Churches – here in the states as well as in other countries – 20 families { Count kids

C) That's **approximately 70 full time missionaries we have sent out in the last 13 yrs**

1) Don't **hype that up – that is part of our DNA – who we are as a sending Church.**

We believe in Short term missions – For 13 years at least one team a year

**A) We have taken approx 800 pp on mission trips.
Close to 200 People to Disaster relief / Haiti**

B) Mid term trips – Send teams 5 months – supporters of that – many of our young people have gone on those trips

C)– BB Russia in May/ This year Ireland Youth this summer – Costa Rica – Italy

D)So we send people Globally!

3. We send money: Last 13 years we have sent well over 1 million dollars to the mission field.

A)Probably – enough to build the new Building –

B)This building – work – Chairs – remodel -

C)5-10k this year in doing outreaches at Camp Pendleton

C) Some of you give – that is great but don't let that be your only form of Evangelism

Put that all together – We are a part of the Revolution

Starts with the individual - Heart /burden to the lost

Surrendered -