



Life Group Sermon Study Notes
“Reaching the City”: Mirror vs Mission”
Ps. Bryson Breakey-September 29, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What has been your favorite neighborhood to live in? Why?
- What is a relationship that you have that has surprisingly flourished over time?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Self awareness message that you have what you need to reach those who are in front of you.

Acts 1:4-9 ESV And while staying with them, he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

- Tension between the mirror and the mission

We have what we need because Jesus is enough. Often we can get caught up in the shortcomings we see in ourselves. We think we don’t have what it takes to be used by God. This passage shows Jesus shifts the disciples’ focus from their personal concern about the kingdom, to his immediate concern for getting the gospel to the ends of the earth. Jesus tells them that they would be witnesses, but only after he explained that the Holy Spirit was coming upon them to give them power.

- Our power is only because of his presence

It's not about what's in the mirror. It's about what's in us. The power we see from the disciples after this moment of tension is because of the Holy Spirit. We can see leaders in the church operating in the gift of teaching, prophecy, or shepherding and think they are so powerful. Those leaders would say that it's not because of anything they did, but because they have tapped into the gift that Jesus left- the Holy Spirit.

- Local efforts have global implications

When we understand we have been empowered then we empower others. Jesus modeled how empowering those in our immediate vicinity has a global impact. Jesus ascended into heaven knowing that days later the gift of the Holy Spirit was going to be deposited into the disciples. Therefore, they wouldn't fail the mission. When we continue to read the books of Acts we learn that the disciples started being a witness, locally in Jerusalem and did indeed have a global impact. When we have a revelation of the gift of the Holy Spirit that is inside of us, by the mere fact of our relationship with Jesus Christ, we will reach out to those around us. We reach out to others trusting that the Holy Spirit is using us to impact the world one person at a time.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- How much does what you see in the mirror affect you reaching out to others?
- Do you sense the empowerment of the Holy Spirit as you interact with others?
- When you think of outreach does your mind immediately go to global outreach or local outreach?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit to be a witness.
- Ask God for a greater awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit inside of us.
- Ask God for opportunities and boldness to reach those in our immediate sphere of influence.