

Speak the Name of Jesus

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In Acts 1:8, Jesus tells the disciples:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8

As a disciple of Jesus, a Christian, a Christ follower, we are called to be His witness, to make Christ known to the world around us. As you go throughout your day, how often are you intentionally engaging in being a witness for Jesus? As you start your day, do you pray for opportunities to speak His name and to share the Good News of the hope and joy that He brings with others?

In this verse, Jesus shares with us how to be His witness and where to be His witness. First the how, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you”. The Holy Spirit has been given to us, as our great counselor, empowering us to be a witness for Christ. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us share the message of gospel with others. When we speak the name of Jesus, we don’t do it in our own efforts, but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we walk by the spirit, we are called to be a witness in “Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” There are four areas where Jesus wants us to go and speak His name. Jerusalem is the city in which you live, for some of us that might be Lenexa, Overland Park or Shawnee or for others it could be DeSoto, Olathe, Paola. Wherever you live, God desires you to be His witness in that city. Judea would represent our state of Kansas or even the greater Kansas City metro area. As you travel or do work across Kansas City are you being a witness for Christ? Samaria would be the next “state” over. And as we see in the Gospels, the residents of Samaria were “different” than Judeans were...this would be like a Kansas Jayhawk being a witness to a Missouri Tiger sharing the name of Jesus. An last, we are called to be a witness to other countries all around the globe.

Jesus is basically saying; start where you are; be a witness in your “Jerusalem”, then share in your state, then the next state and then all over the world. As we look forward to Easter, may I encourage you to take some time and pray about how you are being a witness for Lord and where you are sharing the name of Jesus. Ask God to empower you with the Holy Spirit, giving you the joy of salvation and sharpening you with the living Word so that you can speak of the hope and salvation that is offered in Christ. Follow the Lord’s direction in being a witness in your neighborhood and town, as well as in the Kansas City area and all around the world.