

Series: Acts: Empowered to Extend

Lesson: Be My Witnesses

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Introduction

If you had all the power in the world:

How would you be tempted to use it?

What would you want to do with it?

Text: Acts 1:6-11

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority. ⁸ But 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven."

1. The Kingdom (Acts 1:6-8)

Aspect of Kingdom*	The Disciples' Vision	Jesus' Vision
Nature		
Membership		
Arrival		

**From John Stott, The Message of Acts, pp. 41-45*

Discussion Questions

1. How do we shrink our vision of God's kingdom? How does that impact our lives?
2. How does Jesus' vision of the kingdom challenge us and excite us?

2. The Power (Acts 1:8)

"But 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."

Discussion Questions

3. How might our lives be different if we had a greater appreciation for the Holy Spirit?
4. What does it mean to be Christ's witness?
5. Where is it easier for us to be witnesses? Where is it harder?

3. The Glory (Acts 1:8-11)

⁸ *"But 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹ and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven."*

Discussion Questions

6. How would Christianity be different if Jesus had not ascended?
7. How are we tempted to turn Christianity into a spectator sport?
8. What's the connection between waiting (for Jesus' return) and witnessing?

What kingdom motivates me?

What power energizes me?

What glory captivates me?