



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

The Early Church Series, Lesson 50

Lesson Title: Sent By the King

Take Home Point: Witnessing is showing and telling about our friendship with Jesus.

Warm-Up:

Imagine you have always suffered from poor vision – even with glasses or contacts everything is fuzzy during the day and you can hardly see at night. You can't drive or read or enjoy visual delights. Then a relative tells you of someone who can help you with a new procedure. Desperate, you take a chance and have it done. The results are miraculous! You can see clearly for the first time, and it is wonderful! Now, also imagine you have family and friends who suffer from the same malady. Do you tell them about your doctor and the procedure, or keep it to yourself? What do you think?!?

Read: Acts 1:3-11

Observation (What happened?):

How long did Jesus stay on the earth after his resurrection and what did he teach his disciples about?

What did he promise them? Why?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What kind of power did Jesus promise the Holy Spirit would give them when he came to them?

What were the disciples to testify about everywhere they went?

Insight:

Why did Jesus want to give his disciples (including us) the power of his Holy Spirit? He had taught them for several years, so couldn't they have gone out to teach without the Spirit? Well, what is power for? Think of it in mechanical terms. We use the power of an engine to make a car move. We use the electrical power in our homes to make an element heat up and give light, or make our appliances operate. We use the power of our muscles to walk. What is power for? TO CHANGE THE STATE OF WHATEVER RECEIVES THE POWER! Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to change our hearts and change the world around us. He knows we don't have the power to change ourselves, so he provided the power. As Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:3, "God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and for godliness."

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Who are you witnessing to in your Jerusalem? In your Judea? In your Samaria? The ends of the earth? What does your life testify about?

What are you doing to get to know Jesus better so you can be a better witness? If you don't already, make a commitment to yourself to spend time daily reading the word and praying, and to get into a Bible study with other believers.