

November 2011

From the Pastor 

Bringing the Kingdom of God to Earth

It was a beautiful, partly cloudy day in Jerusalem. The apostles were talking with Jesus about what will be happening now that He rose from the dead.

They were probably thinking now that Jesus was raised there was nothing that could stop Him. Jesus now proved He was the Messiah, and it was time for the kingdom of Israel to be established on earth! No longer would the Roman Empire reign; now Israel would be the new empire. Therefore, they asked Jesus:

"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6 NIV)

And Jesus said something amazing! He said:

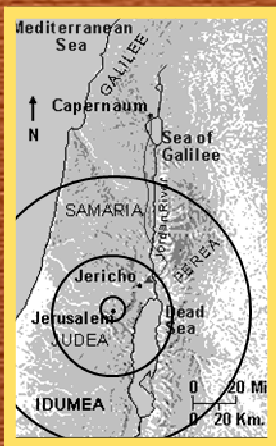
⁷ *... "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.*
⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; ... (Acts 1:7-8a)*

Did you catch that? Jesus did answer their question. He told them basically, "Yes the kingdom will be established on earth, but it will be God's kingdom, not Israel's. And the most exciting part of it is that God will empower you to be witnesses for this kingdom. You will have the power of God within you to tell others about the kingdom of God!"

There was a plan of action that Jesus gave to the disciples to help them in establishing the kingdom of God on earth.

...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8b)

To understand what Jesus meant here you need to see a map of the area.



Jerusalem was the city that the disciples were living in. Judea was the region or "county" that the city was in. Samaria was the neighboring region. In fact the Jews didn't get along well with the Samaritans.

Jesus basically told the disciples they were to start at home and then work their way out to the world in being witnesses.

After Jesus said this, He left.

After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. (Acts 1:9)

The disciples didn't know what to do. Jesus went into the sky. As they were standing there, they received a message from God.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:10-11)

God told them, Jesus is coming back. But now it's time for you to do your job! Get out there!

The same if true for you and I. Jesus is now in heaven. It's our job to get the message of the gospel out; it our sacred duty as believers to tell others of Jesus. Here is your map.



Jesus wants you to start with those closest to you, your family and friends. Next you move on to your neighborhood. Then you are to tell those in your city about God. After that, God has Broome County waiting to receive your witness.

After that, God has the world waiting to hear your speak.

However, what do you do first? Simple, do what the disciples did. They prayed.

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying.... ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer.... (Acts 1:12-14)

After prayer, this small group of believers turned the world upside down for Jesus. You know about Jesus, because 2,000 years ago a group gathered together and prayed.

If you want to reach your world for God, you start with prayer. Pray for the world to know Jesus. Then move with the power of the Holy Spirit, and bring the kingdom of God to the world.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Fred".