

140209 The Disturbance in the Force

Introduction:

- We are starting a new series this morning entitled, Living In Acts.
 - The purpose of this series is to look at the grace that Apostles brought to the early church.
 - What better place to study that grace than in the Book of Acts or as many Bibles read, The Acts of the Apostles.
 - As we do this study, of course we will be looking at the characteristics of the apostle but my goal is to make this series as practical as possible for every believer who hears. Because what the apostle carries is to be for the equipping of the local church!
- "Consider the following," says Rudy Tidwell, columnist for the Carroll County Times:
 - A student studies his books diligently, burns the midnight oil studying, goes without eating properly, gets his degrees and his name is included in a 'Who's Who' book [and he's] called a GENIUS!
 - An athlete works out everyday, follows the coaches' instructions, disciplines his life rigidly, puts almost every waking moment into his sport, goes to the Olympics and wins a gold medal [and he's] called a CHAMPION!
 - An entertainment idol burns the candle at both ends, compromises moral standards in order to advance, uses people to get to the top of his profession, neglects his family and ignores his spiritual life [and he's] called a STAR!
 - **Application:** "However," he continues: A Christian can get his heart right with God, get excited about his salvation and new life, live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, attend Bible study and worship, show joy ... weep over sin .. read his Bible and pray, and do you know what some people will call him? A CRAZY RELIGIOUS FANATIC! Strange, isn't it? That is what I want FCC to be! A people who are right with God, excited about their salvation and new life in Christ, living under His Lordship, walking in the fullness of the Spirit, sharing their faith and making disciples! And if that earns you the title CRAZY RELIGIOUS FANATIC! Go for it!
- Let me introduce you to some people in Acts that earned this same title. Acts 17:2-4,6 *As was Paul's custom, he went to the synagogue service, and for three Sabbaths in a row he used the Scriptures to reason with the people.*³ *He explained the prophecies and proved that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead. He said, "This Jesus I'm telling you about is the Messiah."*⁴ *Some of the Jews who listened were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with many God-fearing Greek men and quite a few prominent women. NLT These who have turned the world upside down have come here too. NKJV*

1. Our Goal: Turn the World Upside Down

- a. Turning the world upside down is not done by paid professional clergy. It is done by a group of believers called the church. Our understanding is this: we do not go to church we are the church. And as the church we have a mission in the earth: Bring the Kingdom of God to men!
 - i. We are salt in the work place! in our neighborhoods! in our schools!
 - ii. We are light that shines in the darkness.
 - iii. We bring hope to a hopeless world.
- b. The church is a group of believers led by a group of people called five fold ministries. They are found in Eph 4:11-ff. They are: Apostle, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. These gifts are given to the body of Christ to equip them to do the work of the ministry. And each gift has a uniqueness about it.
 - i. Most of us know who the teacher is to the body of Christ. He takes the Word of God and breaks it down to digestible/understandable form and keeps us on track with his 'line up line' teaching. His passion is that believers understand the Kingdom of God and how to operate in it.

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- ii. Most of us know who the pastor is to the body of Christ. He takes the love of God and equips the church to Shepherd/care for one another. We are very familiar with this gift. His passion is to see the church love God and care for one another.
- iii. Most of us know who the evangelist is to the body of Christ. He inspires and equips the church to bring men into the kingdom of God. He has a passion for souls to be saved so he equips the church/the body of Christ to do this.
- iv. Most of here in the fellowship know who the prophet is. He lives with his ear to the ground listening for the footsteps and voice of God. He declares to the church what God is doing in any given season. He moves in revelatory gifts like: prophecy, word of knowledge, word of wisdom etc. He equips the church to hear God's voice and how to minister that to others. His passion is the voice of God and communicating God's heart to his people.
- v. We are looking at the Apostle and Apostolic grace over the next few weeks and we want to find out what is it that the Apostle brings to equip the local church with. How do we access that? And how do we walk in it. Because the goal is to turn this world upside down for Jesus!
- c. In the OT God use Holy Spirit anointed men and prophets to bring His Kingdom of Light into the darkened world of sinful humanity. Any time God wanted to do something in the earth he found a man to do it. He found a man after His own heart and anointed that man to lead other men into His presence. Men like the judges, David, Samuel the prophet etc.
 - i. The goal was to penetrate a darkened world with the light!
 - ii. One thing in Acts that clearly stands out is this: That the work of the Holy Spirit through Godly believers advanced the Kingdom of God through every nation, city, and people group that it went to. Whether in the market place making and selling tents, or in jails or before Kings, the Gospel advance through these anointed ones.
 - iii. Through the work of the Holy Spirit nothing could stop the culture of the Kingdom of God from penetrating every 'ethnos' of the earth. It is God's desire that this become the reality of our church and the church of this region!
 - iv. This is one of the clarion marks of the early church: the Gospel was not confined to a building or a specific location. We have 'dropped the ball' as believers and let Gospel affect us once a week as we come to church to consume it. This Gospel is not for our consumption it is for perishing people who are daily dying in their sin.
 - 1. Apostolic grace was shot out of the hand of God like a bolt of lightening to set this world on fire for Him! Why do we need apostles and apostolic grace? To remind us of our mission and see to it that we are doing it!
 - 2. You are the people he has chosen to do this with! He is not interested in a beautiful organization. God wants a church! A living organism full of life impact this world.

2. There is a Disturbance in the Force

- a. In Star War V, Luke Skywalker is growing in his strength by the Force. The evil Emperor Palpatine summons Vader and says to him, "There is a great disturbance in the force." Vader, "I have felt it." Don't you know that is exactly what the devil felt and more besides when Jesus gave up His spirit.
- b. In Acts 17:6 Luke writes *those who have turned the world upside down have come here*. The church/the body of Christ, that has been unleashed upon other cities, well it has come here!!! They body of Christ that is causing a such commotion in other places is now here!! Those english 'upside down' words come from a Greek word meaning to disturb, to stir up trouble...

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- i. One man dies on a cross: the earth quakes, the temple curtain tears from top to bottom, over 500 graves open up and people come out of them alive! They are people raised from the dead by the power of God. That is a disturbance!
- ii. Jesus empowers 12 men as apostles, turns them loose in the earth: There is the sound of wind, the appearance of fire, 120 speaking in tongues, 3,000 saved the first day, the fear of the Lord comes on the city, and healing begins to break out all over. God added to the number of believers and then multiplied the number of believers! That is a disturbance! The shock wave emanated from Jerusalem to Judea, to Samaria to the utter most parts of the earth.
- c. Jesus started by taking common ordinary men and making them apostles.
 - i. Luke 6:12-13 *One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. ¹³ At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles.* NLT So out of the number of disciples that were following Jesus he chose 12 and made them apostles. They were still disciples but now they are disciples that have been empower to be ambassadors of God. So they are called apostles. Representatives of the Kingdom of God. So, the Gospels are not only the record of Jesus life and ministry but it is also the record of the training and mentoring of the first apostles. And Paul the apostle says in Eph. 2:20 that *the church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets*. Ie. the capstone or corner stone in the building of an arch. It is the last stone to go in, yet it is the stone that is above all others and it is the one that hold the building together. ie. Old Catholic churches in Antigua, Guatemala.
 - ii. Jesus was entrusting the future of the Kingdom of God to these 12 apostles. That meant that they had to carry the DNA of the Kingdom of God and the early church would gets its DNA from the gift of the apostle given to the church! The roots of the early church were deep into the anointing of the apostle/apostolic grace. It was this governmental anointing that took the church into battle with darkness of this world.
 - iii. He took these apostles, filled them with His Spirit and sent them out to disciple the nations.
 - iv. Why do we need apostolic grace? Why do we apostles? They bring the DNA of the Kingdom of God and they cause a disturbance in the realms of darkness as they empower, equip and release the church to do the work of the ministry. It is that DNA that cause you to enter the work environment with a totally different mindset. You are there to establish a beachhead for the Kingdom of God.
- d. So we begin by looking at the book of Acts because that is the birth of the early church. The apostolic did that. Apostolic grace made the book of Acts possible! Not the pastor! The word pastor is used one time in the NT and we have made it the main thing today. It was the cutting edge anointing the first apostles that turned the world upside down/caused a disturbance.

3. Apostolic DNA

- a. In verse 3, for forty day Jesus instructed His Apostles. He did three things with them to command/instruct them. Gr. entolle - meaning to command, to instruct, to commission. These are your orders.
 - i. He appeared to them multiple times.
 1. Most apostles have had unusual encounters with God. These encounters give them a resilient ability to 'stay with it'.
 2. The appearing was to ease their fear of His coming and going. Like a mother weaning her child Jesus appears to His disciples.
 - ii. He proved to them in many ways that he was alive.
 1. *Tekmerion* - Plain indications. He proved or confirmed many times that he was alive.

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2. He walked with them, He talked with them, He ate and drank with them.
 3. He showed them His wounds again and again that they would know it is Him. Why? Because that would be their message: Jesus is alive! We have seen Him. "Blessed are those who believe and have not seen."
 4. They now know that they have a High Priest who has been touch by their weaknesses and has over come them!
- iii. He talked to them about the Kingdom of God.
1. In 20 He breathed on them and increased their understanding.
 2. He tells them in secret what they must soon tell the whole world.
 3. The point of their message would be all about the Kingdom. Not Rome's, Not Israel, Not America's, but the Kingdom of God. There was no politics in His conversation only Kingdom!
- b. His foundational command was receive the Holy Spirit the gift from the Father.
- c. It is this DNA that the church is to have today! Jesus is alive and this life is to be all about the Kingdom because He is coming again!

Conclusion:

As of 2013, Emmitt Smith is the current world record holder for NFL career yards rushing--a title he took from the previous record holder, Walter Payton. Over the course of his 15 year career, Smith ran the ball for an incredible 18,355 yards. That's more than 14 miles of pushing, shoving, jumping, rolling over and through countless, massive defensive linemen whose sole goal it was to make him eat turf for lunch. Except for the occasional run out of bounds, they did just that, stopping him over 4,400 times, on average every 4.16 yards. Not only did Mr. Smith defy each assault to get up and do it again, he pressed on to victory and right into the pages of history. **Application:** In the Christian life, there will be hurdles and obstacles that seek to deter, if not utterly destroy us. Our great challenge is to keep pushing ahead--shoving past, jumping and rolling over each one until we reach the goal and hear our coach say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him" (James 1:12, ESV). "If we endure, we will also reign with him ..." (2 Timothy 2:12, ESV). "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb 12:1-4