

A Church on Mission
Believing in Missions
Acts 1:6-8

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Text Introduction: At various times this year, I have done some major teaching on our core values as a church. I have suggested that we adopt these four core values as a church.

1. We much preach the same Gospel.
2. We much declare this message to the next generation.
3. We must preach this same Gospel to all the nations.
4. Whatever we accomplish must be all for God's glory.

So, in this year, I want to spend a specific amount of preaching time preaching through these four core truths that we hold. We have talked about the first two core values earlier this year. For the next five Sundays, I want to remind us of the importance of the third core value. Again,

We must preach this same Gospel to all the nations!

Today, I want to give us that basic reminder of why we believe in missions. That is, that God has given us the purpose to preach the Gospel to all of the nations.

Text: ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, at this time are You restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set 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, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The Priority of Missions

"It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority; but ..." Acts 1:7

Biblical Assessment: *3 things in the text point to this priority*

1. Jesus changed the focus of the question.
2. These words are a command.
3. These are the concluding words of Jesus.

Practical Application: What will cause missions to be our priority?

1. The desire to be obedient to Christ
2. The degree of our conviction in the reality of Hell.

The Power for Missions

“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you” Acts 1:8

If the power of the Spirit is our greatest strength, then prayer is our best strategy.

The Plan for Missions

“...and you shall be my witnesses” Acts 1:8

We are God’s Plan!

There is no Plan “B”!

We believe that there is practical value in cooperating with others.

First Baptist Church believes in cooperating with other Christians and other Baptists because we realize that the task is larger than ourselves. We believe that we must act cooperatively if all the nations are going to know about Jesus. Through Cooperative giving efforts, our church is on pace to give away at least \$500,000 this year from our weekly tithes and offerings in an effort to help those in places other than Lafayette know Jesus. In addition, we receive special offerings to aid the efforts of missionaries internationally and nationally. If this year is like other years, we could easily give another \$100,000 to special missionary causes.

The Pattern for Missions

“both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

My Jerusalem: I must share with those in my world. (Luke 8:38-39 Gerasene Demoniac—He wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus instructs “Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.”) Evangelism starts at our house in our city.

My Judea and Samaria: I must dare to reach beyond my world.

My Remotest Part of the World: I must care about the whole world.

We are to start where we are, but we must eventually take the Gospel message to the end of the earth. The greatest struggle of any church is to figure out this progression. There will be some who criticize that we spend too much money and effort in Lafayette. There will be others who criticize that we spend too much money on the nations when there is so much to do here in Lafayette. I’m reminding us today that the Scripture declares that we do both. Even more than that, I’m trying to help us to understand that there is a Scriptural principle of progression that must guide our church strategy.

You may have seen the recent movie, *End of the Spear*. It’s the movie of the five missionaries spared by natives of Ecuador in the 1950’s. Your familiar with the name Jim Elliott who was one of those five

missionaries. In for me the most poignant moment of the movie, Nate Saint, one of the five, was having a conversation with his young son, probably 8 years old or so at the time. His son, Stevie Boy, says, "Dad, promise me one thing, if the Waodani attack, please would you defend yourself." Fighting back tears, Steve asks, "You will shoot, won't you Dad, if they attack?" Nate, himself fighting back tears says, "Son, we can't shoot the Waodani. They're not ready for Heaven, but we are."