

Acts Wrap-Up

You may have a notion that Jesus spent MOST of His time preaching and teaching the gospel. Then Jesus also had some friends on the side. The gospels indicate it's the opposite. Jesus spent MOST of His time in intentional relationships and then also preached to the crowds. In fact, the gospels record over twice as many personal conversations that Jesus had than teaching settings with crowds.

If Jesus had reached the entire world of 250 million people but did not train anyone to reproduce themselves, then Christianity would have only lasted for one generation. Jesus' mission was not to reach the world but to make disciples who would reach the world by making disciples. Did it work?

Four chairs represent four stages of a Christian's development.

Review Mt 4:19, 4 chairs

These 4 chairs represent 4 stages that Jesus took His men through with the idea that these men would change the world. What I want to do is talk you through these 4 chairs.

Chair #1: Seeker, John 1:35-39. *This was a call to faith.*

Chair #2: Believer, Mt 4:18-22. *This was a call to commitment.*

Chair #3: Worker, Mark 3:12. *This is a call to participation.*

Chair #4: Disciple, Mt 28:18-20. *This is a call to multiply.*

We sometimes misunderstand the completion of the earthly ministry of Jesus as only going to the cross. Another aspect of the work of Jesus was the training of His disciples to be disciple-makers. These men are now ready to make disciples of nations. This was not just men but both men and women and families and different ages, cultures, languages. It's clear from Acts that the method of Jesus was effective.

***A healthy Church is marked by a deep commitment to the Lord,
to His people and to His work in the world.***

In other words, the Church in Jerusalem **multiplied**. Churches in Israel and Syria **multiplied**. They multiplied disciples, they multiplied ministries, they multiplied leaders and they multiplied Churches. That was not viewed as exceptional. That was normal.

The pattern in Acts is the Church grows and multiplies. The Church was not small in their vision or content to be comfortable. *They heard Jesus say: Be witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth and they went after it.* It was messy, it was hard, it was costly, but they kept at it.

What does this look like for a local Church? The key word is multiply. Multiply ministries, multiply leaders, multiply Churches, multiply everything.

At Hope Community Church ... ***We exist to embrace the mission of Jesus by making disciples who love God, love people and are being changed by the gospel.***

Home Group Discussion Questions:

1. Reflect on the Book of Acts: What are some of the important events and/or teachings that you remember?
2. Is there anything you might want to change or address in your life as a result of our time in Acts?
3. Does the content of the Book of Acts increase your vision of what God can do in and through the Church? How about your perception of what God can do in and through your life?
4. Regarding the four chairs ... where do you think you are? Where do you want to be? How can your Home Group or Hope CC help you get to where you want to be?
5. Discuss something you may have heard Pastor Karl say:

At some point, we need our faith in Jesus to move us and direct us into uncomfortable steps of faith.