



Being a Witness in Samaria

Acts 1:8

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- ❑ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (NIV)
- ❑ But you will receive power *and* ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.” (AMP)
- ❑ But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect, to the people in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, about my death and resurrection.” (TLB)

Thought Provokers

- Many people are concerned about how many people are in church when they should be concerned about how many people are NOT in church.
- Some people are not Christians because they don't know any Christians and some are not Christians because they do know some Christians.

Consider...

- ❖ Most people become Christians through a family member or close friend (75 -90%).
- ❖ A survey in Australia in 2021, 56% of Australians say they do not have any family or close friends who are churchgoers. *(Aust Community Survey)*

Breaking down Acts 1:8

<u>Area</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Geography</u>	<u>Social</u>
Jerusalem	1	My town	Family
Judea	2	My area	Network
<i>Samaria</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Awkward places</i>	<i>Awkward people</i>
Everywhere	4	Everywhere	Everybody

Here come the Samaritans!

- Collapse of the northern kingdom (721 BC to Assyria) led to mixed marriages
- Mixed marriages led to mixed/corrupt religious practices
- Consequently, the Jews and Samaritans were opposed to each other
- BUT, Jesus healed one (Lk 17:15), ministered to woman (Jn 4) used as a parable (Luke 10:25-37)
- Gospel preached there in Acts 8:25
- *Jesus also ministered to poor, sick, outcasts, sinners, tax-collectors etc*

Our/my Samaria

- ☐ Applies to church and individual ministry!
- ☐ Awkward places: where are you out of your comfort zone?
- ☐ Awkward people: who makes you feel uncomfortable?

Are you willing to be called by God to go to these places and/or people?

God expects me to...

1. Be prayerful
2. Be ready to obey/available to go
3. Be open to Divine appointments
4. Be bold (*hesitantly...*) = walk + talk
5. (Be a team member)
6. Don't stress
7. Celebrate when people come to faith!

A bold prayer...



“Father God, I am willing to step out of my comfort zone. I ask you to show me my ‘Samaria’ and give me the courage to depend on Holy Spirit power to be your witness to them – even in this coming week”

AMEN