



Giving Our All



How is the Church Doing?

- Talking with Mayor last week
- Harder to connect with people, they are getting their needs met other ways
- Church =



Out of touch
Old fashioned
Doesn't meet needs
Irrelevant
Rules oriented
Not cool
Too traditional
Doesn't get ME
Other?



Rebranding the Church

- Tongue in Cheek Video
- Rockpile Church
- Elevate Church
- Mosaic Community Church
- One Chapel
- “Wait, give us a chance. We aren’t what you think. We have a cool name and cool services and we do get you and so does Jesus!!”
- It is called rebranding – do something to change public perception – businesses do it all the time
- I don’t think the church needs rebranding, it needs restoring
- We think it is up to us – it has always been up to GOD!



Acts 3: 1- 8

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the [a]ninth *hour*, the hour of prayer. ² And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg [b]alms of those who were entering the temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms. ⁴ But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" ⁵ And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. **⁶ But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!"** ⁷ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. ⁸ [c]With a leap he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.



Our Differentiator

- These days the church can't always say, "we don't have silver and gold"
- Also, very rare these days for the church to say, "in the name of Jesus, rise up and walk."
- We try to be attractive and relevant – music, programs, facilities, activities – all things that can be duplicated in the world from other sources
- The one thing that differentiates the church from the world, ALL we really have to give, is a connection to the life-changing power and presence of God



Remember the narrative so far

- **8 but you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;**
- **and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**



Which Means

The Holy Spirit will give
you the ability to tell
what *you have*
experienced - with
miraculous results!!!!



The First Sermon ...

- Jesus died, rose again, repent, be baptized, receive the Holy Spirit – WHY?
- Because Christianity is about Relationship, not religion
- It is about our weakness being swallowed up in His Power
- It is about miraculous, mind-blowing, life changing Power and Presence of God invading the world, changing lives and changing the world as a result



3000 people were saved

- ⁴² They were continually devoting themselves to:
 - the apostles' teaching
 - and to fellowship,
 - to the breaking of bread
 - and [[ao](#)]to prayer.
- The ONLY NT Church Blueprint for life in the Body of Christ



And As a Result

- ⁴³ [ap] Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; **and many wonders and [aq] signs were taking place through the apostles.** ⁴⁴
- And all those who had believed [ar] were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ and they *began* selling their property and possessions and were **sharing them with all, as anyone might have need.**
- ⁴⁶ Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread [as] from house to house, they were taking their [at] meals together with gladness and [au] sincerity of heart, ⁴⁷
- praising God and having favor with all the people.
- **And the Lord was adding [av] to their number day by day those who were being saved.**



And Then it Occurred to Me

- They weren't trying to grow a church
- They were just **LIVING THE LIFE**, and it was contagious – by just doing those 4 simple steps
- They were infected with **JESUS**, and it just began to spread **EVERYWHERE**
- For them, repenting and being filled with the Holy Spirit wasn't the end, it was the beginning of an entirely new way to live!!!
- Power and Love evangelism – “Jesus is Alive, but don't take my word for it. Who needs a touch from Him right **NOW?**”



Paul's Simple Strategy

- And when I came to you, brethren, **I did not come with superiority of speech or of wisdom**, proclaiming to you the [a]testimony of God. ² For I determined to know nothing among you **except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified**. ³ **I was with you in weakness** and in fear and in much trembling, ⁴ and my [b]message and my preaching were **not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, ⁵ so that your faith would not [c]rest on the wisdom of men, **but on the power of God.**



Paul's Simple Strategy

- We have been saved BY his Power so that we might experience His power and presence in every aspect of our lives and share that with others
- That isn't about branding, it is simply all we have to offer people – all we need to offer people
- All our words and slogans and programs are USELESS if people don't encounter the power of God
- How many people will believe LAFBE is true just because we tell them? Nice story, but
- Remember when Jesus healed the paralytic who dropped through the roof? What did he say?
- So that you might know the Son of Man has the power to forgive sins, arise, take up your bed and walk!!



All we have is Jesus

- And that is enough
- That is what people really need
- Not programs but life
- Not “relevance” but relationship – with Him and with His body – where they can be loved and healed and restored
- But it is not about US, it is about his power flowing through us and using us as we share the only thing that really matters



Our Mission, Our Message – You are

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY