

Sermon Notes: Session Five on the Book of Acts

Recap of Previous Sessions

- **Holy Spirit's Arrival**: The Holy Spirit has come, and the gospel has been spreading to various groups, including outcasts, the elite, traditional Jews, Hellenistic Jews, and even a Roman who was a friend of the synagogue. [\[01:55\]](#)
- **Outreach to Diverse Groups**: The gospel has reached different types of Jews, a Roman, an Ethiopian court official, and Samaritan outcasts. [\[02:28\]](#)
- **God-Fearers and Proselytes**: The message has also reached God-fearers and proselytes, people who were interested in Judaism but not fully converted. [\[03:12\]](#)

Key Themes and Messages

1. **Teamwork and Faithfulness**:

- **Jesus as Coach**: Jesus places us where we need to be, even if we don't like it. We need to be faithful and disciplined. [\[05:18\]](#)
- **Discipline in Faith**: Just like in sports, discipline is crucial. Avoiding offside, staying in the right position, and being ready are essential. [\[07:05\]](#)
- **Avoiding Red and Yellow Cards**: Stay professional and peaceful, as the devil will try to take your peace. [\[08:03\]](#)

2. **The Power of Stay and Preparation**:

- **Paul's Preparation**: Paul spent 10-13 years in preparation before his ministry took off. This period was crucial for his later success. [\[22:51\]](#)
- **John Mark's Early Departure**: John Mark left the mission early, showing the importance of being fully prepared before stepping into ministry. [\[28:23\]](#)

3. **Challenges and Perseverance**:

- **Facing Opposition**: Paul and Barnabas faced significant opposition, including being nearly killed, but they persevered. [\[33:13\]](#)
- **Staying Faithful**: Despite challenges, staying faithful and steadfast is crucial. [\[20:13\]](#)

4. **The Gospel Message**:

- **Core Message**: Jesus Christ is alive, sacrificed for our sins, rose again, and ascended to heaven. This is the message we need to share. [\[39:21\]](#)
- **Sharing the Gospel**: Be honest and real about your faith. Share the Jesus you know and are getting to know. [\[42:29\]](#)

5. **Encouragement and Support**:

- **Barnabas as an Encourager**: Barnabas, known as the Son of Encouragement, played a crucial role in supporting Paul and others. [\[18:11\]](#)
- **Community Support**: The church is a team, and we need to support each other, especially during tough times. [\[11:50\]](#)

6. **Facing Persecution**:

- **Historical Examples**: The sermon references historical martyrs who faced persecution with boldness, emphasizing that it's Jesus' presence, not bravado, that will get us through tough times. [\[47:20\]](#)

- **Modern-Day Application**: Whether it's an awkward situation at work or real danger, we need to rely on Jesus for courage and strength. [\[50:54\]](#)

Conclusion

- **Call to Action**: Be 100% in for Christ, stay faithful, and share the gospel with honesty and integrity. [\[12:24\]](#)

- **Prayer**: A closing prayer asking for Jesus' help to stay faithful, find courage, and be filled with His presence. [\[56:35\]](#)

These notes capture the essence of the sermon, focusing on the key themes and messages delivered.

Sermon Summary

In this session, we delve deeper into the book of Acts, focusing on the spread of the gospel to various groups, including traditional Jews, Hellenistic Jews, Roman friends of the synagogue, Ethiopian court officials, and Samaritan outcasts. The Holy Spirit's work is evident as the gospel reaches diverse audiences, breaking cultural and social barriers. The message emphasizes the importance of being fully committed to Jesus, allowing Him to work through us in every aspect of our lives.

We are reminded that sharing the gospel is not just about words but about living a life that reflects Jesus. The analogy of a sports team is used to illustrate the need for discipline, teamwork, and being in the right place at the right time. Just as a football team must be disciplined and ready, Christians must be spiritually disciplined and ready to seize opportunities to share the gospel.

The sermon also highlights the importance of staying faithful and steadfast in our Christian walk, even when faced with opposition or persecution. The story of Barnabas and Saul (Paul) is used to illustrate the power of staying and being prepared for God's timing. Barnabas' role as an encourager and his ability to see the work of the Holy Spirit in others is emphasized.

The message concludes with a call to be bold in our faith, to not be ashamed of the gospel, and to rely on Jesus for strength and courage in all circumstances. The importance of being honest and authentic in our walk with Jesus is stressed, as well as the need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to effectively share the gospel.

Key Takeaways

1. **The Gospel Breaks Barriers**: The gospel's reach extends beyond cultural and social boundaries, touching the lives of traditional Jews, Hellenistic Jews, Romans, Ethiopians, and Samaritans. This demonstrates the inclusive nature of God's love and the power of the Holy Spirit to transcend human divisions. We are called to share this inclusive gospel with everyone, regardless of their background. [\[01:55\]](#)

2. **Living the Gospel**: Sharing the gospel is not just about speaking the right words but living a life that reflects Jesus. Our actions, attitudes, and how we handle everyday situations speak

volumes about our faith. People will see Jesus in us through our daily lives, making our entire life a testimony of the gospel. [\[05:18\]](#)

3. ****Discipline and Readiness****: Just as athletes need discipline and readiness, Christians must be spiritually disciplined and ready to seize opportunities to share the gospel. This involves being in the right place at the right time, avoiding distractions, and making the most of every opportunity to share God's love. [\[07:05\]](#)

4. ****Faithfulness and Steadfastness****: Staying faithful and steadfast in our Christian walk is crucial, especially when faced with opposition or persecution. The story of Barnabas and Saul (Paul) illustrates the importance of being prepared for God's timing and remaining committed to our calling, even when it seems like nothing is happening. [\[20:13\]](#)

5. ****Boldness in Faith****: We are called to be bold in our faith, not ashamed of the gospel, and to rely on Jesus for strength and courage in all circumstances. This boldness comes from a deep relationship with Jesus and being filled with the Holy Spirit, enabling us to face challenges and share the gospel effectively. [\[49:36\]](#)