

## CAN I GET A WITNESS?

(INTRODUCTION)

ACT 1:6-9

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### Significance of Last Words

- Tell what is of paramount importance to an individual
- Reveal character of individual
- Indicate a person's grasp of life, the lessons they learned and their wisdom
- Expression of vision

### The Lord's Last Words

- Matthew 28: 16-20
- Acts 1: 1-11

### Our Lord's last Words

- Identify what is of paramount importance to Him: Growth
- They reveal His character: His life was spent challenging individuals to grow beyond self and socially imposed limitations
- They indicate his grasp of life which is that life should be lived for causes and purposes that outlasts it
- They express his vision for his followers

### Major difference between Judaism and Christianity and Judaism and Islam;

#### How Christianity and Islam are linked

- Missionary religion and Community of Faith as paradigm
- People of the book and People of the way (John 13: 34-35)
- Lifestyle Witnessing

### How the Early Church Grew

- There was a corporate or collective vision for growth
- Leadership was involved directly with growth
- Individual efforts in evangelism
- Strong worship with the undeniable presence of Holy Spirit
- Loving atmosphere among church members that attracted others
- Generosity among members that attracted others and that met practical everyday needs
- Spiritual power among members that attracted others
- Strong teaching that was grounded in personal knowledge of the word of God and a personal relationship with Christ

### What is a Witness?

- Witness is a person who has strength that comes from knowing----
- Witness has seen something
- Witness has hears something

Witness can make identification  
Witness can provide answers---facts  
Witness can help free the innocent and/or convict the guilty  
Witness can affect the future or destiny of an individual  
Witness can shed light on mystery or the unknown  
Witness can make a contribution  
Witness was on the scene

#### Qualification of witness

Not morally perfect but accurate regarding that which they represent  
Truthful  
Be able to stand up under cross-examination  
Audience of Acts 1: 6-9 and their qualifications

#### Power to Witness

Acts 1: 7a: “ But you will receive power”  
P – permission (Amazing that the Lord Jesus, King of Glory gives us permission to represent him)  
O – opportunity  
W – words  
E – endurance  
R – rewards (Matthew 25: 31-40; II Timothy 4: 6-8)

#### Whose Witnesses?

Acts 1: 7b: “you shall be my witnesses”  
Incorrect witnessing  
Denominational witnesses  
Certain ministries  
Ourselves  
(Balance and perspective: II Corinthians 4: 4-10)  
We are witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ --- we belong primarily to Jesus  
We are witnesses to the Lord Jesus Christ --- we point beyond ourselves to Jesus  
We are witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ --- we live for his glory  
We are witnesses in the Lord Jesus Christ --- power to witness comes through abiding in Jesus (John 15: 1-11)  
We are witnesses with the Lord Jesus Christ --- we are co-laborers with Christ  
We are witnesses through the Lord Jesus Christ --- we have his permission, power and authority

#### Where Do We Witness?

Acts 1:8  
In Jerusalem --- Holy city; Site of the temple  
Among the saints  
In the household of faint in terms of our ministry and service  
If we cannot work with saints how can we expect to work with sinners?  
If we can't get along with the converted how do we expect to get along with the

condemned?  
If we do not like those who are full of grace, how do we expect to like those who  
are full of guilt?  
If we do not have a heart for the holy, how do we expect to have a heart for the  
hell bound?

In Judea --- Neighboring territory beyond church  
Home  
Neighborhood  
Job  
School  
Social Settings

In Samaria --- Unfamiliar territory that is sometimes hostile  
Among those with whom we have had misunderstanding  
Among those with whom we have had long standing histories of division  
Among those we may consider to be enemies  
Among those who may have hurt us or those whom we may have hurt  
Among those who we consider to be different or event beneath us  
Among those we do not understand

To the ends of the earth ---  
Wherever we go in life  
At the extremities of the experiences of joy and sorrow, failure and success.  
How we go through is just as important as our going through.

How Do We Witness?  
With Word  
With Work  
With Worship  
With Walk  
With Willingness to witness in unexpected experiences of Divine appointments