

“Christ’s Farewell Address!”

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Communion:** During worship. Romulo will lead.
- 1.2. Pollsters report that 72% of Americans don’t know their next-door neighbors!!!¹
- 1.3. Some scholars estimate that over the 30 year span of the book of Acts, the Christian church grew from 120 to 100,000 among Jews alone.²[obv greater w/Gentiles]
 - 1.3.1. Therefore if taken only as a “church growth study”, **Acts** would qualify as a valuable source for discovering **principles & procedures** for spreading the gospel.

2. **CHRIST’S FAREWELL ADDRESS! (4-8)**

- 2.1. **WAIT...UNTIL!** (4,5)
- 2.2. **Wait** – Also **see** Lk.24:49.
 - 2.2.1. This **waiting/tarrying** lasted a whole **10 days**, no longer.
- 2.3. In Christian service there is a **delicate balance** between **spending time w/the Father** (in worship, praise, & intimacy), & in **obeying the Fathers commands** in ministry outreach.
 - 2.3.1. **Waiting** in the upper room, where they spent a good part of 10 days, must have been a sweet time of “*peace, quiet, prayer, fellowship, & thanking Jesus for all He meant to them*”.
 - 2.3.2. Times such as these, in **warm fellowship** w/other believers in the presence of God, are **precious!**
 - 2.3.3. **But then suddenly the “until” hits!**
- 2.4. **Until** – The *until* takes effect & they receive *the power* they’d been waiting for.
 - 2.4.1. **From then on it was “lights, camera, action.”**
 - 2.4.2. **It was time for ministry & practical application** of the **power** they’d receive.
 - 2.4.3. Within 24 hours, they had produced 3,000 **unpolished** disciples, who needed **care & nurture** in their Christian faith.
 - 2.4.3.1. And the **action** sparked that day, lasted the 30 year span of the book of Acts!

¹ Bill McKibben, in the Age of Missing Information, Signs of the Times, February, 1994

² Acts of the Holy Spirit; Peter Wagner; pg.16.

- 2.5. “We must not allow the time spent in *preministry spiritual formation* to extend indefinitely.”³
- 2.5.1. **Allow me to add a PS here:** I said earlier, “In Christian service there is a **delicate balance** between **spending time w/the Father** (in worship, praise, & intimacy), & in **obeying the Fathers commands** in ministry outreach.” - We must always maintain that balance!!!
- 2.5.2. **What I’m saying is, “don’t become a professional “tarrier”!”**
- 2.5.3. If we don’t have the **intimacy** we won’t have the **power!**
- 2.5.3.1. It’s as necessary as food is to the human body.
- 2.5.3.2. But food, like tarrying, can be **overdone**.
- 2.5.4. We must arise from our **upper room** & head into **the marketplace of Murrieta** & over to the shops of **Mongolia!**
- 2.6. (5) **Baptized with the Holy Spirit** – Unfortunately differences of understanding about what is meant by *the baptism of the H.S.* have been used by the enemy to separate segments of the body of Christ for almost 100 years.
- 2.6.1. Sincere believers on all sides are seeking the same thing, namely, **the *unobstructed power of the H.S.* in their lives & ministries.**
- 2.7. There are 3 separate terms used for the power-bestowing event Luke’s talking about
- 2.7.1. **Baptized w/the H.S.** – used only 1 more time in Acts (11:16).
- 2.7.1.1. When Peter explains what happened in the house of Cornelius (See 11:15,16; also 10:44-46).
- 2.7.2. **The H.S. has come upon you** – (epi)
- 2.7.3. **Filled w/the H.S.** – we have repetitive times individuals are filled with the Spirit.
- 2.7.4. There are many discussions, disagreements, & arguments on how many times one can be **baptize** or **filled** w/the Spirit; **Whether** it occurs **at** salvation, **or** is **subsequent** to conversion; **Whether** there is **initial physical evidence** to certify that it happened, **or not** is more important to some than others.
- 2.7.5. **I think we can all agree on this:** “We need to receive the supernatural power of the H.S. in our **lives & our ministries to *the greatest extent possible*** in order to serve God well in our world.” (Peter Wagner)
- 2.8. He has provided us with a **power** for our daily living.
- 2.8.1. It’s the difference between running an automobile **w/o** oil & **with** oil.
- 2.8.2. **You can’t run it w/o gas, the car would stop.**
- 2.8.3. **But try running it w/o oil.** It will run for a little while, but the repair bill is always costly. So it is w/the **Christian life!**

³ Ibid; pg.53

- 2.9. A good example was at a Coffee Shop yesterday in Blythe:
- 2.9.1. Our waitress kept filling up or warming up our coffee.
 - 2.9.2. But as she did it, she would always spill it over the top & into the saucer
 - 2.9.3. Good picture of the H.S. wanting to re-fill & overflow each of our lives!
- 2.10. **AT THIS TIME?** (6,7)
- 2.11. The times & seasons/dates of such things were matters within **God's own purposes & authority.**
- 2.11.1. Instead He directed the disciples toward **their task** which was to be *His witnesses.*
- 2.12. (7) Deut 29:29 “*The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*”
- 2.13. Also note, **Israel** - Some believe God is completely done with Israel & the church has become the fulfillment of all future prophecies.
- 2.13.1. If this was so, why wouldn't Jesus have said, “**Haven't you understood yet? There isn't going to be any kingdom.**”
- 2.14. **POWER & WITNESS!** (8)
- 2.15. Jesus' last words – yet not as a dying man, but as **the Lord of Glory!**
- 2.15.1. He taught them in **Jn.14-16** that **He** was going back to heaven to represent us, & that **we** were to be here on earth representing Him.
 - 2.15.1.1. **He** would be in heaven as our ambassador, & **We** would be here on earth as His ambassadors.
- 2.16. **Power** – **Power for what?** - Power for *daily living* in thousands of ways!
- 2.16.1. Ex.31:1-11 God **filled individuals with the Spirit of God** to do **sewing & embroidering & dress-making!** (vs.10, for Aaron & the priests)
 - 2.16.1.1. And in **all manner of workmanship** (3,5).
 - 2.16.2. **It's for the laborer** who does his job everyday in his own strength, **or** asks, “**Lord, help me to work that I can reveal You in my hard labor.**”
 - 2.16.3. **It's for the salesman** who does his job everyday in his own crafty way, **or** asks, “**Lord God, I don't want to lie about my product. I'll say things exactly as they are & not oversell it.**”
 - 2.16.4. **If you think you're full, He will leave you empty.**
If you admit you're empty, He will fill you up with all strength & power & might...for the Christian life!
- 2.17. **Witnesses** –
- 2.18. **Explain E1-E2-E3:** [**E**-stand for evangelism; the # represents the # of barriers that must be crossed in order to do it]

- 2.18.1. **E1** – **Monocultural evangelism**. The only barrier is to move outside the church (also called the *stained-glass barrier*).
- 2.18.1.1. **Too many Christians fail to cross it.**
- 2.18.1.2. **You don't have to learn a new language; don't have to eat different foods; don't have to adapt to new behavior patterns.**
- 2.18.1.3. **Just have to communicate the good news to people very much like themselves.**
- 2.18.2. **E2 & E3** – Both of these are **Cross-cultural**, the difference is one of degree.
- 2.18.2.1. **E2** – example would be *Anglo-Americans* evangelizing *Mexican-Americans* because the cultures have comparatively **minor differences**.
- 2.18.2.2. **E3** - example would be the Indians Nate & Aide minister to down in Oaxaca.
- 2.18.3. Most people are won to Christ though E1 evangelism. It has always been this way & always will be. It is the easiest, most natural, & most effective kind of evangelism.
- 2.18.3.1. **Jesus was a monocultural evangelist** [1st 120 saved were Jews]
- 2.18.3.2. **That's why Mike & Lori Ramsey went to the P.I. – They made disciples, raised up nationals, then turned the church over to Pastor Mark there in Iloilo.**
- 2.19. **Jesus promised them power for this *world-sized task!***
- 2.19.1. **This is the 5th appearance of Jesus' Great commission.**
- 2.19.2. **Mt – Make disciples of all nations.** (28:19)
- 2.19.3. **Mark – Preach the gospel to every creature.** (16:15)
- 2.19.4. **Luke – Repentance & remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations.** (24:47)
- 2.19.5. **John – As the Father sent me, I also send you.** (20:21)
- 2.19.5.1. **4 of the 5 (John the exception) specify the international, global scope of the evangelistic task mandated by Jesus.**
- 2.19.6. **On another occasion Jesus said, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."**
- 2.19.6.1. **This seems to indicate that world evangelism is not an endless task, but that it is on a divine time line.**
- 2.19.7. **The specific goal is to plant the outposts of the kingdom of God, which are principally Christian churches, in every nation, ethnos, or people groups.**
- 2.19.7.1. **It's making sustainable national churches around the world.**⁴

⁴ Part of CCM's "Vision Statement".

- 2.19.7.2. “Some missiologists are suggesting for the 1st time in Christian history that there is **light** at the end of the **Great Commission tunnel!**⁵
- 2.19.7.3. The body of Christ has **human** resources, **material** resources, & the **spiritual** resources to complete the task.
- 2.19.8. Of course no **human** plan or strategy could possibly accomplish the task. It can only be done w/the **extraordinary outpouring of supernatural power** through the H.S.
- 2.20. **The most challenging task** that lies ahead of us is the **10/40 window**. (Show Map)
- 2.20.1. It was *Christian mission’s strategist Luis Bush* who started calling this rectangular area “**the 10/40 window**”.
- 2.20.2. He used that easy-to-remember name because it lies across Africa and Asia from **10-40 degrees latitude north** of the equator.
- 2.21. **Missions statistics** of the 10/40 Window:
- 2.21.1. **Center of population:** 2/3rd of the world's population, more than 3.2 billion people, live in the 10/40 Window.
- 2.21.2. **Unreached and unevangelized:** 95% of the people living in the 10/40 Window are unevangelized. Many have never heard the Gospel message even once.
- 2.21.3. **Good news:** There's a difference between unreached and unreachable. In 1989 there were only 4 known Christians living in *Mongolia*. That country now has an estimated 10,000 indigenous believers.
- 2.21.4. **Christian TV:** Can now be received in many closed 10/40 Window nations.
- 2.21.5. **Poverty:** 85% of those living in the 10/40 window are the poorest of the world's poor.
- 2.21.6. **Least evangelized cities:** 1/2 of the world's least evangelized cities are in this window.
- 2.22. People ask, “**Isn’t my neighbor next door just as important?**”
- 2.22.1. The answer is, of course it is important to share the gospel with all!
- 2.22.2. **But why we emphasize this 10/40 window is in regards to “access” or lack of access** to the gospel, a viable church, or even the Scriptures.
- 2.23. Think about it, if the **Iron Curtain** came down, w/such little previous warning, a series of similar events over the next few years could radically change the political landscape of the world, & topple some of the most formidable traditional barriers to the gospel. (Peter Wagner)
- 2.23.1. **What can we do?**
- 2.23.2. Well we can be **praying** for this very thing!

⁵ Acts of the Holy Spirit; Peter Wagner; pg.56.

- 2.23.3. **Praying** for this very region. For cross-cultural missionaries to **go** into this region; **Finances** to be designated there; get **Translations** underway.
- 2.24. **“God’s power, is available to God’s people, who want to do God’s will, and be God’s witnesses!”⁶**
- 2.25. **Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria, & to the end of the earth –**
- 2.25.1. **“Maybe *the ends of the earth* imply those who have gone the farthest away from Christ?” (Spurgeon)**
- 2.26. **To be His witnesses in both word and deed means communicating the verbal content of the Gospel and living God’s way and not our own.**
- 2.26.1. This is the **central task** of the people of God, but it can be only accomplished with **power** from the Spirit.
- 2.27. **Think of the most beautiful mailbox you’ve ever seen, maybe in a wealthy neighborhood. Now think of the oldest, weather-beaten one off an old dirt road.⁷**
- 2.27.1. The mailbox is important **not because** of what it is in itself, **but because** it belongs to, & is part of, **something greater than itself.**
- 2.27.2. **Both boxes can be equally trusted with a precious letter.**
- 2.27.3. **But a mailbox “disconnected from its system” would be useless.**
- 2.27.3.1. It would neither receive nor transmit that stream of human communication for which it is made.

⁶ Warren Wiersbe; With The Word; pg.706.

⁷ Thought taken from, The Best of Vance Havner; pg.32,33.