

## Acts 1:6-11

### 1. **When will I be famous.**

*AC 1:6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

The disciples wanted to know when Jesus would make Israel great. What they were really wanted to know was "When will I be famous." After all those who hang out with the king before he was king would look really great. When Jesus was going to be in charge they wanted to be there so everyone would take notice.

I used to go to **Tamworth Country Music Festival** each year. Scripture Union holds a mission there and when I worked for them I used to do some music and generally missionise. Every couple of years this bloke would come and play a bit of music, he wasn't real good but he got his chance. He would be a real pain and get in the way and want more singing spots. He never helped, in fact as soon as the hard work started he was gone. Unless there was a big name country musician around, then we would get coffee for them, clean tables, help with chairs. I was a bit of a joke that if someone important came in he was a model christian. Really, he just wanted to be important. Don't we all.

What is our motive for ministry? Do we want to be seen to be doing the stuff, or do we just do it to get it done. Do we want to seem intelligent at bible study and have an answer to everything or do we just want to learn? Muso's can be the worst, some of us want to lead every service so we are up in front of everyone. Maybe we would rather be a deacon than the church cleaner.

We have to take stock here. Our ministry should be for people's sake not to appease our own feeling of importance or our own need to minister. Like a boy scout taking a little old lady across the street, the only problem is – she didn't want to cross the street.

### 2. **It's none of your business.**

Read 1:7

***AC 1:7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority."***

Jesus response to this question is not what they expect nor what they wanted. Basically Jesus says – **"It's none of your business"**. It is God's business to know things like that. No hints, no explanation, just that statement.

It's like a kid in a shopping centre an this little kid wants a toy car. Mum says no you can't have it. Sometimes with some mums no means no, until they get hassled enough to give it to them. Not my mum. Kids try tantrums, coercing, crying anything. I tried it all. Nothing worked. It was funny a couple of years ago when I went shopping with mum and dad. Dad finds a toy car. Now I have explain that dad collects certain things relating to certain makes of cars. He collects anything to do with Sunbeams, Talbots and Darrags. Anything. Anyway Dad see's a cheap toy car of one of these makes and goes up to mum and says "Guess what I found" Mum just rolls her eyes and says OK. Now I figure this is a bit unfair. I worked hard over the years, did even get a second hand mars bar, but dad wow, not fair. In fact, as yet I have still not got to play with dad's toy cars. Neither has his grand kids (My brothers kids) never got to play with them, they have to bring their own. Dad's toys, or models as he refers to them are his business. No negotiations entered into.

The issue here is that God said it and that is enough. Jesus didn't need to go into it, and he didn't. There are so many times in my life where I have been asking God and I have felt like the answer is "Because I said so". That should be enough but we keep pushing for an answer like little kids. Over the years I have often read the bible to find an answer that I wanted. Or gone to a certain church service to hear what I want. Jesus answers, and gives better than we can imagine. What the disciples wanted was the quickest way to be noticed. Often we want the quickest way to get what we want.

### 3. Sell and sell well

Acts 1:8

***8 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."***

He issue wasn't, and isn't when will Jesus be great so we can be great. The issue SHOULD be Here's your job, this is what you have to do.

It is as if Jesus is saying "What you ask isn't important for you – This is."

**You will be My witnesses.** This is different. This is not about you, but about what you do for me.

Now this is real ministry. We become Jesus representatives.

Jesus own sales reps. Just as sales reps move around the country so too are these guys going to.

Jerusalem, I have heard many preachers say that this is like our home town.

I don't think so. I don't think any of the disciples came from Jerusalem.

Galilee yes, Jerusalem no. Jerusalem was where they were. Just like all of us come from different parts of the country, yet we are all here in Bathurst. If it was to do ministry in our home town, I'd be preaching in Marrickville.

Judea – that's kind of like the places around. Places we go. Maybe places we holiday. Witness doesn't stop on holidays, great chance to do ministry.

Samaria – here is the cool one. Samaria is where the disciples didn't want to go. Good Jews didn't associate with Samaritans. But here they are told they would be. Where is it you would be uncomfortable? Is there a ministry there? Is that part of your ministry? Maybe.

The ends of the earth. There is a lot of it out there. All ministry all to be witnessed to.

Where is our witness? Here in church. Not valid. Not even scriptural.

Church is a place of support for ministry. Church is a place to prepare people for ministry.

Where is your Jerusalem? Over the back fence.

I talked to a Kid from a christian school in Wagga Wagga once and he proudly told me that he only had christian friends. He wouldn't associate with non christians. What are we teaching our kids.

We are all called to witness, wherever that may be – no christian gets out of that one. In fact we are all told to disciple others. – No Christian gets out of that one.

Each of us are witnesses. We are to be witnesses where we are at.

In actual fact we are always witnessing, sometimes it is a good witness sometimes it is more like a witless. Can they see Jesus for who he really is, in what they see in you and me?

#### **4. Who am I a witness to.**

I like watching movies. Particularly fantasy movies. One of my favourite series is Highlander. Great special effects. Every time a highlander gets killed there is lightning and electricity going everywhere, great stuff. I love it.

Notice here Jesus just goes, no fuss or bother just goes. In an amazing way.

Acts 1:9-11

***AC 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.***

***AC 1:10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."***

This is what we witness about. A Jesus who is amazing. A Jesus post easter, risen again and a Jesus who is coming back. He should be a Jesus we want people to know. Easter should have been a reminder that Jesus died, became alive again but is coming back.

Conclusion.: How passionate are we about witnessing. We will find out over the next few weeks just how passionate these disciples got about Jesus message. There is much to learn, much to get excited about.