

ACTS LESSON 4 HANDOUT

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

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

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."

Risen - "I have seen two things I cannot reconcile. A man dead without question. And that man alive again."

JD Greear - Jesus Continued

My experience with being led by the Spirit began when I quit asking God what His will for my life was and started offering my life to Him as a sacrifice for the pursuit of His will on earth.

It all started with a wrong prayer.

I surrendered my life to God right before going to college. I told God I would do whatever He wanted.

I chose a career path in law because I had a natural proclivity toward it and knew I could make good money in it. I figured that if God wanted something different from me, he'd tell me. I'm not sure how I thought He would do

that, but I assumed it would involve some kind of "Damascus Road" experience in which He knocked me out of my car and told me what to do, or at least spelled it out in my Cheerios. Something like, "JD, take the gospel to Afgahanistan." But nothing like that ever came. No bright lights. No voices. All my cheerios ever spelled out was oooooooooooooo.

My junior year of college, I read through the book of Romans several times. On my 3rd time through, Romans 2:12 seemed to lift off the page. "For all who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law.

This meant that even those who hadn't heard of Jesus specifically were still under the judgment of God, since they had a "law" written on their hearts. And each of us, without exception, Paul explains has rebelled against that law. Our only hope, therefore, is the gospel and people can only hear about it through us.

I had read these verses before, but it was as if the importance of the mission suddenly became alive to me. The reality of whole nations of people perishing, having never heard about hope in Jesus, broke me. You see, at most one third of our world is Christian and that's if you count everyone who claims to be a Christian. That means that at least 4.5 billion people remain separated from God right now. Out of that 4.5 billion, 2 billion have no access to the gospel.

These two billion are people created in the image of God, just like you and I are. They have the same needs, wants, hurts and desires that you and I have. Each one is someone's son or daughter. Many are someone's mom or dad. They know what it feels like to be lonely and afraid. God loves them just as He loves you and me.

And here I had chosen my career without giving hardly any thought to those billion people.

In every age, the church faces the danger of degrading itself from a movement to a place, from a conduit to God's mighty rushing wind to a sacred place where we seek serene, spiritual moments; from a rescue station to a spiritual country club.

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."

Evangelism is doing normal life with gospel intentionality

"I assume someone had to create this world so I want to know God and have a relationship with Him –

The bible tells me that story from beginning to end.

I'm not into religion and the bible says that when we are born we are separated from God because of our sin and I know my sin is great the only way to do that is through Jesus who died for my sin.

Sounds pretty simple to me!"

Colossians 1:13–14

**13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness,
and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved
Son,**

**14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness
of sins.**