

SENT #2 – “YOUR JERUSALEM AND BEYOND”

How do you look at the world?

- One lens we can see the world through is the lens of international or regional conflict. . . the lens of economics . . . the lens of different languages and customs.
- *How does God primarily look at the world?* Through a spiritual lens. We must see one another as broken, sinful, rebellious, alienated and hurting - people in need of redemption, love, purpose . . . in need of a savior.
- The Savior has come in Jesus – and we know him. And that changes everything. When you see people as God sees them, your heart doesn't pull away from them – instead, it moves toward them with compassion. It reaches out in love, and ultimately, you want to introduce them to Jesus.
- This is how Jesus saw the world.
 - ◆ He wept over Jerusalem because they were like sheep without a shepherd.
 - ▶ *John 12:46 “I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.”*
 - ◆ Jesus began his ministry among the Jews. John 1:11 “He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”
 - ◆ Then Jesus took his good news to the Gentiles – to the nonJews. John 4 – to a Samaritan (mixed Jewish race) woman, considered impure by Jews and avoided by them.

Acts 1:8

- Just before Jesus ascended to his Father, he told them
 - ▶ *Acts 1:8 “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.”*
- 1. **“You will receive power...”**
 - Several words in the first two chapters of Acts describe this event: “baptized with the Holy Spirit”, “filled with the Holy Spirit” and “pour out my Spirit”. The primary point in each of these metaphors is that the Spirit controls us. Fear doesn't. And natural abilities don't. God immerses us in himself so that he rules through us.
- 2. **“and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**
 - Equivalent: “You will be my witnesses in your town, your township/county, Harrisburg and the ends of the earth.”
 - Each circle of influence gets further and further away - further from home, further from comfort, further from familiar.

- For these disciples, Jerusalem may be familiar, but it certainly wasn't friendly. As they shared the good news of Jesus, some people saw it as too easy (it's about a love relationship to Jesus); others saw it as too hard (following Jesus required dying to self). Either way, Jerusalem wasn't an easy place to begin.
- Not every person can do it all (Jerusalem, Samaria, ends of the earth), but together we can.
 - > We can do it together by each of us going somewhere.
 - > And we can do it together by each of us supporting those who go to their Samarias and to the ends of the earth.

Application

- ➔ When does your circle of influence start feeling like Samaria – and the ends of the earth?
- ➔ When do you need to accept people who are different than you, understand people who are different than you, love people who are different than you, and communicate to people who are different than you?
 - To some of us, it may start right in our families.
 - This “Samaria” sense may also be experienced at our jobs, or in our neighborhoods, or our Harrisburgs.
- ➔ Sharing stories of Jerusalems and Samarias – before going to the ends of the earth:
 - John and Esther Spurrier (Zambia)
 - Jason and Jenna Weigner (Bolivia)

***See the world through spiritual eyes,
go to the world in increasing circles –
all by surrendering to the Spirit's enabling.***