

Witness The Lessons from the Simple Penny

Introduction:

1. Acts provides us with startling details of how the church began
2. The material in Luke and Acts covers about 60 years
3. More accurately it should be called the Acts of the Holy Spirit
4. 120 disciples were in a 10-day prayer meeting – this explains the explosive beginning of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit
5. Luke wrote both Luke and Acts to Theophilus – it was likely that there was no one like that. Instead the translation of the name means “lovers of God” – that is you and me
6. Without the Spirit there would be no church

The Bridge:

1. Last week many people were filled with the Holy Spirit
2. From the beginning the church of Acts struggled with the same things we do
3. I want to suggest you read through the Book of Acts
 - a. place yourself in the scene
 - b. Think about you personally can obey the instructions given
4. Acts chapter 1 is the bridge between the end of Jesus’ first story and His continuing story
5. At the end of Acts it says that even although Paul was able to preach the gospel unhindered
6. The gospel message can never be stopped e.g. China
7. Luke ends Acts with no finality – it is still being written

My Witness:

1. Jesus’ story was breathtaking and the disciples knew it
2. They were the first to be given the extraordinary truths
3. They also were the first to be given the opportunity to be His witnesses
4. The 120 in the Upper Room represented people from all walks of life
5. No realistic observer at the time could have predicted anything great of the apostles.
6. This inadequate, small, mostly frightened band of people were the ones that Jesus initially intended to have this message.
7. God has long experience using ordinary clay pots to great ends.
8. It is good to wait on God for His leading as opposed to running ahead of Him
9. Christian disciples are to give testimony to a truth that has changed their lives.
10. As a believer over the years the story of our own redemption fades from our memory
11. Acts 1:14 – some wonderful truths:
 - a. They were of one mind
 - b. Prayer was central to them being together
 - c. They looked to the scriptures
12. The 120 are to serve as a challenge and encouragement to us
13. We often take our inspiration from the wrong sources
14. We often witness to the wrong things, articulating the wrong priorities
15. ***Acts 1:8 Jesus said that “you will receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you and you shall be my witnesses”***
16. Witness = able to evidence – of His miraculous power
17. In other words you will begin to see the world through different eyes

Lessons from the simple Penny:

1. ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)***
2. There were several situations in which the Lord spoke to me
3. Walking across the parking lot and noticed a penny - the Lord spoke to me from that
4. Penny under a ledge at mall – in the shadows
5. Penny in busy crosswalk in Bellevue – all mangled and beaten up
6. Penny in laundry at home
7. Penny in restroom at airport
8. Penny at sandwich place in SoDo
9. Each time I find a penny I ask the Lord to show me His heart for people
10. ***1 John 3:8 “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil”***
11. The Great Truth on which you and I stand today—and forever—is that *Jesus is alive!*

Victory:

1. The adversary of our soul is real but the victory of Christ is victory over Satan is also real
2. The Savior’s love is depicted so clearly by His love for and the value and importance of all
3. This was illustrated in the pennies I found
4. The parking lot penny – out there in the open with the world passing by
5. The one under the ledge – neglected and alone and uncared for
6. The scared and flattened one –
7. The one that had been through the washer – the circumstances of life – washed out
8. The penny in the Men’s restroom – the grossest of all – He will look for us wherever
9. The SoDo penny – speaking of new life – a replanting to grow and flourish

Witness:

1. Through these pennies I was aware of a stirring in my heart that Jesus came not only so all people might be forgiven and receive eternal life but to bring deliverance
2. The pennies are the story of Jesus and the love of God for people.
3. And because of His unending love, He is willing to reach into the most problematic, darkened, washed-up, or fouled circumstance.
4. As we allow the precious Holy Spirit to speak to us in circumstances or situations that might seem insignificant or might to most seem irrelevant, God can use us to testify to the goodness of our Heavenly Father
5. The pennies continue to speak to me of the situations Jesus encountered during His ministry
6. Through the Holy Spirit indwelling us Jesus wants to expose us to experiences that are so clearly miraculous
7. And it is not just in the exercise of the Spiritual language but with that simple gateway of introduction you will begin to move down the course of a life where the Gifts of the Spirit will become evident in your life as well
8. My prayer for you today is do not be content to just be about yourself – there is a world out there and Jesus has chosen you to live for Him today and be part of what He is doing in the earth in these last days
9. *“In God We Trust”* – will you do that today?