



Text: A Variety of Passages on Christ's Mission
Message: *Week 1 – Embracing the Lord's Acts 1:8 Challenge*
In Our JERUSALEM – To Our FRAANS!

1. God greatest gift fulfills our greatest need – the gift of _____ offered through His One and only Son who is the way, the truth and the life...no one comes to the Father...goes to heaven except through faith in Him (John 14:6).
God our Savior...wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men. 1 Timothy 2:3-6
2. Our Lord's _____ Challenge remains in effect for us His modern-day disciples and faithful stewards as we manage our Lord's gifts, especially the saving gift of the Gospel...the power of God unto salvation.
Jesus said – "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." Acts 1:8
3. Every Christian and every Christian _____ must embrace Jesus' local-global challenge if we are to be used by God effectively in advancing His kingdom.
4. **Christ's** _____ **...VISION...PURPOSE & PLAN for your personal life, for your family, and for His Church** - to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth is forever linked to what you and I have come to know as the GREAT COMMISSION -- Jesus' words in Matthew 28 spoken to His disciples before He ascended into heaven.
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20
5. **Fulfilling the Great** _____ *(Going and making disciples)* **By Living the Great Commandment** *(Loving others as Christ loves us)* **With Passionate, Spirit-given Power** *(Boldly speaking, living, loving God's Word into the hearts and lives of others)* happens when you and I embrace our Lord's Act 1:8 Challenge to be His witnesses.

Three Truths we need to know...

- † _____ of people around the world, many from our own families and neighborhoods, are going to hell.
- † The _____ will do all within his power to prevent you and me from doing anything about that.
- † _____ will do anything within His power to make HIS MISSION -- to seek and save the lost, POSSIBLE.

6. Do you have any idea of the magnitude of that _____ line? If all the unsaved people around the world would line up single file at this church's front door, that line of unsaved people would circle the world - 30x's! That's unbelievable!
7. As Christians, you and I know it's _____ will that everyone in that unsaved line be *saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*. With over 60% of the people in Livingston County unchurched, the words from St. John are so fitting, and they ring with a sound of urgency: "*I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest*" (John 4:35)
8. The _____ are people with familiar faces, people we rub elbows with in the local restaurants, cheer with at ball games, associate with in our schools, shop with at the outlet malls and grocery stores...neighbors and friends we wave at and talk to...They are our family members and relatives we have come to know, love, and respect.
- Lord, give us a Great Commitment to your Great Commission – to go and make disciples of all nations by embracing your Acts 1:8 Challenge to be your witness to my FRAANS, My Friends-Relatives-Associates-Acquaintances-Neighbors-Strangers!***

9. **We are here on the earth for a very short period of _____, and we have an incredibly urgent assignment - to partner with our Savior in His mission to seek and to save what was lost** (Luke 19:10).

We confess, Lord, that the trappings of the devil ... the enticements of the world ... and our own pitiful, sinful selves blur your unswerving purpose for our lives, and our Christianity sometimes becomes merely a matter of habit, a hallmark of respectability, a duty, a meaningless act in which we only pay lip service to Christ who lives in us. It's then, Lord, that we fail to live by faith and walk by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us.

Lord, forgive us; and then Lord, empower us through your Word with an urgent concern, a heartfelt compassion, and a burning desire to reach out to our FRAANS who do not yet know you as their personal Savior and the Lord of their lives. So, Lord, give us a Great Commitment to your Great Commission – to go and make disciples of all nations as we embrace your Acts 1:8 Challenge to be your witnesses! Amen.

...open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Acts 26:18

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24:14

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples...See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord. Psalms 96:3; Colossians 4:17

Holy Spirit, empower us to embrace our Lord's Acts 1:8 Challenge so that we will be His bold witnesses in our Jerusalem (to our FRAANS), and in all Judea (to our community) and Samaria (to those different than us), and to the ends of the earth (to plant your church wherever you lead us). Amen.

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| 1. Salvation | 2. Acts 1:8 | 3. Church | 4. MISSION | 5. Commission |
| † Millions | Devil | Christ | 6. Unsaved | 7. God's |
| | | | | 8. Lost |
| | | | | 9. Time |