

Summary

This sermon concludes a 12-week journey through the book of Acts, highlighting how the Holy Spirit transformed a small group of uncertain disciples into world-changing messengers. The pastor provides a flyby overview of Acts chapters 11-28, showing three key themes: the Gospel moves through ordinary people (like those in Antioch), presses through opposition (Paul's persecutions), and travels from back roads to world capitals (reaching Rome). The message emphasizes that Acts doesn't end with a conclusion but with a comma - the story continues through us today. The sermon transitions into introducing the church's Christmas Give partnership with Seed Company to translate Luke and Acts into the language of an unreached people group in Southeast Asia, challenging the congregation to participate in continuing the Acts story through Bible translation.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather together today, we thank You for Your Word and the incredible story of how the early church began and spread. We ask that You would open our hearts and minds to what You want to teach us through this time together. Help us to be receptive to Your Spirit's leading and to see how the same power that moved through the early disciples is still at work in us today. Give us ears to hear, hearts to understand, and the courage to respond to whatever You're calling us to do. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What was the best thing you ate during Thanksgiving this week? Share with the group what made it so memorable or delicious.

Key Verses

1. Acts 11:19-21
2. Acts 13:2
3. Acts 28:31

Questions

1. Pastor Jason mentioned that 'the movement advances at the speed of obedience.' What does this phrase mean to you, and how have you seen this principle at work in your own life?
2. In Acts, ordinary people like 'some of them' from Cyprus and Cyrene started the church in Antioch. How does it encourage you to know that God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things?
3. The early church faced significant opposition yet continued to spread the Gospel. What opposition do Christians face today, and how can we press through it like Paul did?
4. Paul was able to share the Gospel with governors, kings, and eventually in Rome itself. How can we look for opportunities to share our faith in influential or unexpected places?

5. Pastor Jason said your workplace, neighborhood, and friendships are 'your Antioch.' What does this mean, and how can you view your daily environments as mission fields?
6. Acts ends with a comma, not a period - the story continues through us. How does this perspective change the way you think about your role in God's kingdom?
7. Millions of people still don't have the Bible in their own language. How does this reality impact you, and what role should Bible translation play in the church's mission?
8. The sermon emphasized that 'you don't have to cross an ocean to be part of the movement of God, you just have to cross a room.' What practical steps can you take this week to live out this truth?

Life Application

This week, identify one specific person in your 'Antioch' - your workplace, neighborhood, or social circle - and pray for an opportunity to share God's love with them through words or actions. Look for ways to 'cross a room' rather than waiting to cross an ocean, and be ready to respond in obedience when the Holy Spirit opens a door for you to be part of His ongoing story.

Key Takeaways

1. The Gospel moves through ordinary people who are available and obedient, not necessarily those who are impressive or qualified
2. Opposition is not a signal from God to quit - the Gospel presses through difficulties and often grows stronger in the face of persecution
3. God strategically moves His message from small places to influential centers of power and culture
4. The book of Acts doesn't end but continues through believers today who carry the same Spirit and mission
5. The movement of God advances at the speed of obedience - our willingness to respond determines how quickly God can work through us

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us through the book of Acts that You are still writing Your story through ordinary people like us. Help us to remember that the same Spirit that empowered the early church lives in us today. Give us courage to be obedient when You call us to step out of our comfort zones. Open our eyes to see the 'Antioch' opportunities around us - the people and places where You want to work through us. As we consider how we can be part of continuing the Acts story, whether through supporting Bible translation or sharing Your love in our daily lives, help us to respond with generous hearts and willing spirits. May we advance Your kingdom at the speed of our obedience. In Your powerful name we pray, Amen.