

New Sermon Series: Revival

1/25/26 “The Wind Blows,” Acts 5:16-18 (6:7-10; 59-8:1), MEV

INTRODUCTION can devil stop God’s work?

devil vs. Jesus’ temptation & the cross > who really won?

Church birthed when Spirit poured out on *people, not building or institution*

MAIN IDEA: God builds His church using the enemy’s opposition. How? Here is a 5-part pattern.

I. First, God grows His church (Acts 5:14)

- A. through testimony about Jesus (Acts 3-4)
 - 1. Peter & John pray for man...healed (Acts 3:6-7)
 - 2. explain to people done in Jesus’ power (Acts 3:16)
- B. through revival (Acts 5:14-16)...church of Pentecost, revived soon after birth...purified, Spirit released, rebirth
 - 1. not by man’s ideas...strategies, plans, committees
 - 2. but by the Lord dealing with His people

ILLUSTRATION: who are longest believing & most recent?

II. Second, enemy tries intimidation to stop His work (Acts 5:40)

- A. arrest (Acts 4:3)...but church continues to grow
- B. prohibition (Acts 4:18, 5:40)
- C. threats (Acts 4:21)
- D. imprisonment (Acts 5:18)
- E. punishment (Acts 5:40)

ILLUSTRATION: waste of time, you’re not good enough

III. Third, God’s church continues on its mission (Acts 6:1-10)

- A. caring for people (6:1)
- B. discipling...*teaching (6:2, 4), involving in service (6:3)*
- C. adding through salvations (6:7)
- D. serving in the power of the Spirit (6:8)

1. the work they have accepted or been appointed to

2. the work all Christians have—witnessing

ILLUSTRATION: never stop: Merle Tichener, Jean Scott praying

IV. Fourth, enemy escalates to terror (Acts 7:59-8:3)

- A. because of inability to control them
 - 1. unable to silence them
 - 2. unable to overcome their witnessing...*because of God’s wisdom, Spirit’s Presence, empowerment*

Withstand: stand against, resist

- B. hoping to silence some & intimidate others
 - C. hoping to destroy the message

ILLUSTRATION: life gets worse closer you draw to Him

V. Finally, God’s church spreads (Acts 8:1, 4-8)

Acts 8:1, MEV: they were all scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles

Acts 1:8, MEV: But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- A. some stay put under heavy persecution (8:1, except A’s)
- B. others scatter, taking Jesus with them
- C. scattered disciples tell others about Jesus...others believe, kingdom grows (8:5-8)
- D. some pursuers saved, spread Jesus (Saul)

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION: The enemy’s attempts to vanquish God’s kingdom helps grow God’s kingdom. (the cross, Acts, Saul)

Matthew 16:18, ESV: And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock [“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”] I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

ALTAR: suffering for Jesus? Afraid?