

"WITNESSES"

3/17/2024 | Pastor Reggie Roberson

READ: Acts 10:34-47

FOCUS: As witnesses, our lives should testify to who Jesus really is and the reality of the Gospel message.

OBSERVE:

- Being a witness enables us to know the truth of a matter, shed light on events, hold people accountable, pursue justice, and bring credibility. The disciples witnessed Jesus' life and actions which gave credibility to His purpose, and they were able to understand the truth about Him and the gospel message.
- The disciples were willing to testify, suffer and die for what they've seen, heard, experienced, and believed to be true as witnesses of the Gospel. Compelling witnesses are willing to live differently from the world and to love their enemies. They back up their testimonies by living transformed lives and by displaying God's supernatural power operating in them.
- Since Peter and Andrew lived with Jesus for three years, they were able to witness and hear Jesus teach and preach, watch Him deal with opposition, hold private conversations and discussions, and observe His emotions as He dealt with joys and difficulties. They witnessed Him perform miracles. Peter and Andrew witnessed all the things that Jesus did.
- In Acts 10 Peter proclaims that God declared Jesus Lord of All. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Jesus preached peace and He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed of the devil. As a result, Peter and the disciples choose to live a life testifying to the reality of Jesus' life, death, burial, and resurrection.

REFLECT:

- Have you been empowered by the Holy Spirit to be an effective witness of Jesus?
- Are there areas of your life that hinder your ability to be a witness of the Gospel?

TAKING ACTION:

- We must first become a witness by responding to the Gospel. Then, as Acts says, be water baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to be a witness.
- To grow as a witness we ought to devote ourselves to the Bible, prayer, fellowship, and breaking bread (Acts 2). You can do these things by completing Growth Track, joining a Life Group, and serving in the church.

PRAY: Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who gave His life on the cross so we all could be forgiven of sin, walk in the newness of life, and humbly witness to Who You are. Jesus, thank You for bringing freedom to all who would receive You and forgiving us of sin while enabling us to live free of sin. Holy Spirit empower me to be a witness of Jesus and the message of the Gospel—in my time, thoughts, talents, treasures, and in Your manifest power. I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.