

# ***Amity Bible Church***

*“Knowing God and Making Him Known”*

## **Sunday Bible Study**

**Series: Preparing the Church to Leave the Building**

**September 3, 2017**

**Text: Acts 1:1-11**

**Theme: The Church as God Intended It to Be**

### **Central Message:**

The central message in this lesson is that the mission of the church can be summed up in one simple statement, the church exists to “teach what Jesus taught and to do what Jesus did”. It is that simple. At Amity Bible Church we have declared our vision to be, “Becoming the Church as God intended it to be”. Our mission, “to know God and make Him known” is an expression of how that vision is to be achieved. The challenge with any vision is to state it clearly so that others can understand it and embrace it. The more clearly a vision is articulated, the more compelling it is to those who hear it.

When our Lord left this earth, He gave the disciples, that includes us, a daunting task: to proclaim the good news of repentance for forgiveness of sins to the entire world. The church is to continue to do and teach what Jesus began, but Jesus did not leave us without the “tools” that we need to do the work He has assigned for us.

**Lesson #1: If we are going to be the church as God intended it to be, we must be focused on the Master’s Person. (Acts 1:1-4)**

After his resurrection, Jesus did not go immediately to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father. Instead, He presented Himself to his disciples for 40 days in order to give them irrefutable proof that He was indeed God’s

Son, the Savior of the world. He wanted to convince them once and for all that He was their long awaited Messiah. He also wanted them to know that His message to them in the Great Commission was true... He would be with them even to the end of the age.

**Lesson #2: If we are going to be the church as God intended it to be, we must stand on God's promises. (Acts 1:3-5)**

The word prerequisite means that something is required before another thing can be done. For instance, an anesthetic is a prerequisite before you have a root canal. Jesus told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem until that which He promised had come to pass. Jesus wanted His disciples to know that they were not equipped on their own to do the work he was commanding them to do. The message to us is that God does not intend for us today to be a kind of "Lone Ranger". As He promised in John 14 and John 16, He was going to send someone to be with them and in them. They would be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence. That truth has come to pass.

**Lesson #3: If we are going to be the church as God intended it to be, we must appropriate the Master's Power. (Acts 1:6-8)**

There are times when we give in to distractions that interfere with us getting things done we have been tasked by the Master to do. When Jesus authenticated Himself to his Disciples during the period immediately after His resurrection, they were convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus was the long awaited Messiah. This realization caused them to shift their attention from what Jesus wanted to what they wanted. They wanted to know if Jesus was going to usher in the kingdom at that moment. Jesus told them that the time for the kingdom was set by the Father and they had to wait for its fulfillment. But until that time, He would send the Holy Spirit as He had promised, and as the Father had promised. When the Holy Spirit came, they would be empowered to be His witnesses throughout the

known world. Just as the Holy Spirit was the power for the first church, Amity Bible will need that same power to be effective witnesses for Christ today.

**Lesson #4: If we are going to be the church as God intended it to be, we must follow the Master's Program. (Acts 1:6-8)**

When Jesus gave His Disciples the task of going out and winning the world, He assured them that they would not be alone...they would have His Presence. They did not have to worry about how they would achieve the objectives that Christ had given them because God had promised that they would receive supernatural power from above. Christ did not want them to have to figure how they were to go about the task of impacting the world for Christ, He gave them a specify program to follow. Their first ministry objective was Jerusalem, and then they were to move out in ever widening circles until they had impacted Judea and the rest of the known world. That same program works today. If Amity Bible and the church in general would first be witnesses at home and then move out into the larger community, we would be obeying the Great Commission. That is what the church has been called out to do.