

sermon study summary

GLOBAL MISSIONS WEEKEND

Ron Pearce

November 12 / 13, 2022

This weekend is a Global Missions focus at Centre Street Church and we welcome guest speaker Ron Pearce from Empower Ministries. God is moving in a powerful way all across the globe. There is an unprecedented level of people coming to the Lord around the world, more people since the beginning of the church age. In the book of Acts chapter 2 the Spirit of God came down upon the people as they prayed. Peter stood up and he took his stand with the others and said that this is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel. The people were pierced to the heart and they said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren what shall we do?" And this is what the world is saying right now. Why today? Because the religions of the people in these areas just doesn't hold water anymore. People are empty on the inside and they're starting to pay attention to the message that is being preached to them. They are seeing the difference the gospel makes in people's lives.

Let's go on a quick tour of what God is doing in some of the 'highlight zones' that Empower Ministries works in.

In India people are asking why are these people (Christians) different? Why did they love and serve us? Why are they having this peace, this calmness, this joy? Leaders in India are saying their churches are filled and they are performing water baptisms all day long.

In Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia there are young evangelists that are 18 to 25 years of age who walk into the villages and see that everybody is scared of COVID. Picture this: a young man walking into a jungle village. Three hundred people pack around him. They are scared, sad, and apprehensive. He walks in the middle with a smile on his face and they say, "Are you afraid to die?" and he says, "No, because I know the God who made all this and He lives within me and I can tell you who He is and I can tell you how you can meet Him." He sits for two days in the middle of the village and people just swarm around waiting to hear what he has to say.

In Ukraine prior to the war, the country was ranked spiritually 'lukewarm to cold' by Empower Ministries. When the war situation developed, all of a sudden people were hungry to find God: they were looking for a book of hope. They desired a road map to show them how to find God, to find peace, to find the different life that Christ-followers possess.

Israel right now is on the verge of a revival. Young people and families are coming to the churches. Parking lots are filling up with people because the churches are running out of room. Holocaust survivors and their families are coming to the Lord and they become magnificent evangelists. For the first time a Bible has been printed specifically for the Israeli Army.

The Horn of Africa is turning to God, especially in Ethiopia. Trained evangelists are equipped and sent out. A witch doctor became a believer in the gospel and became a pastor and evangelist and led three thousand witch doctors in one day to accept Christ.

We were challenged as part of the church in Canada to get involved not only with the church here but around the world. This is the time when we shrug off complacency and get active. God has raised us up for an hour such as this.

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the condition of the world today? Give reasons why.
2. Do you have faith in a move of God/revival in the Western world? Why or why not?

UP – PURSUE GOD

Read *Acts 2:1-8, 11-13*.

3. How do you see history, in both negative and positive aspects, being repeated today?

Read *Acts 2:41-47, 4:4, 5:12-16, 6:7*

4. The believers' numbers increased. What were the disciples doing that was so astonishing that they fled to Jesus?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Ron told many stories about God moving in the world, citing a noticeable difference in the Christians compared to the culture around them. What do you see as something tangibly different in the Christian 'culture' verses the 'culture' of the world where you live?
6. The common factor in all the stories told was a burning desire to have and be in the Word. Is this zeal something that you have now? Pray with one another for a zeal for Jesus, His Word, and to share the gospel.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

We were challenged as the Canadian church to shrug off complacency. Is there an area in your life where you feel stuck in complacency? Ask the Lord for a fresh filling of His Spirit to follow Him with all of your heart.

The Word (NIV)

Acts 2:1-8, 11-13 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" ¹² Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

¹³ Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Acts 2:41-47 ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 4:4 But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

Acts 5:12-16 ¹² The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. ¹³ No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. ¹⁵ As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶ Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

Acts 6:7

Writers: Jared Harrison, Elsa Henderson, and Gene and Karen Gibbs