

A Grander Vision - Acts 1:6-9

Does anyone know Jesus' famous last words?

These famous last words were incredibly important in casting a grander vision for His disciples to live out before His second coming!

The disciples needed to hear these words b/c they were focusing on lesser things (times, places)! Do we ever get stuck focusing on lesser things?

In the Christian faith, sometimes we get stuck seeking answers to things that God has not revealed, instead of living out the very things that God has clearly revealed for us to do!

Things like "How did creation really take place?", "How does predestination really work?", "When will Jesus return?" "What role does Israel play in God's redemptive purpose today?" do not have clear answers in Scripture, but what we are called to do until Jesus returns has been made clear!

Distraction is a key weapon of the evil one! If he can preoccupy us w/ lesser things, then he will succeed in keeping us from living out greater things.

It wasn't wrong for the disciples to ask Jesus questions about His second coming, there were simply better questions they should have been asking!

Jesus wanted them to focus on the mission of God in this world, a mission that included both God & His people working together to fulfill!

Better questions for the disciples, and for us, to be asking would be:

- Where is God at work around us & how can we join Him until Jesus returns?
- What can I offer that can help "Thy Kingdom come...?"
- What does it look like to honor God & serve His Kingdom in our context?

These are better questions to be asking! Are we asking them today?

Jesus wants us to have a grander vision, to live with a bigger purpose, to engage in a greater mission, to give our lives for something more than ourselves!

What vision/purpose/mission could be greater than being witnesses for Jesus Christ in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria & to the ends of the earth?

Some of you engaged in that grander vision by sponsoring a child on Thursday night through World Help and the Children of the World!

Some of you are engaging in that grander vision this week by participating in the Habitat for Humanity home build! (19)

Many of you engage that grander vision thru giving financially to our church

How else might we, as followers of Jesus, live out His grander vision in our lives today? We can join one of the many "outward" transformational opportunities that are offered here @ BRC!

If you are already serving in a ministry of BRC – Thank you! (114 people) If you are not serving in any way, we challenge you to pick one & start! (25) There is something for everyone, and if we don't offer it, let's try it! (3 new)

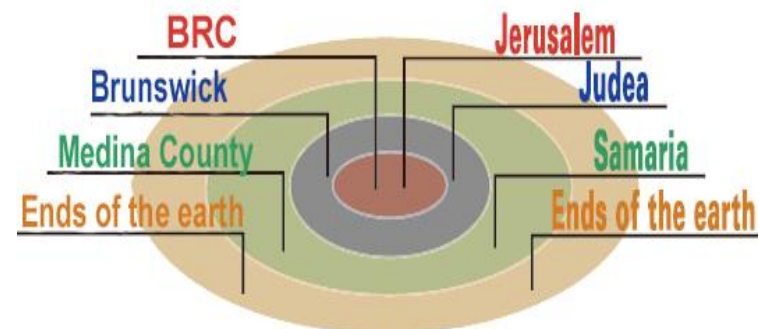
Hebrews 10:24 – "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works." That is what this Ministry Fair Sunday is all about!

1 Peter 4:10 – "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." God's grace keeps on giving!

Ephesians 4:11-13 – "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God..."

For me to do my job well, as your pastor, I must equip you for the work of ministry and stir you up towards love and good works!

The Acts 1:8 model – Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Ends of the earth



There is a grander vision for us, as followers of Jesus, to live into! Will you join with us in being “a church where the love of Jesus is transforming lives”

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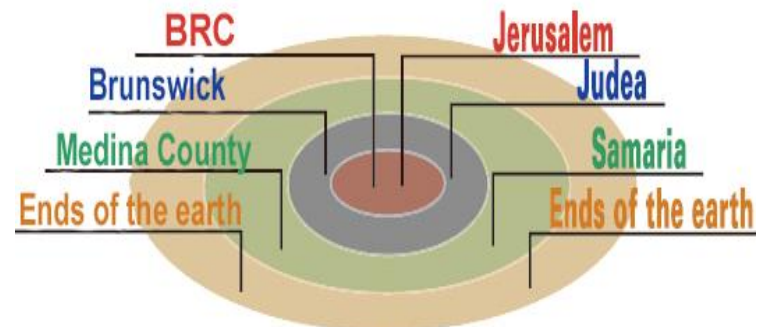
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