

THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Making Disciples that Tell the World

Acts 1:1-11

WELCOME!

Have you ever lived during a time when our world, our country, the people and families that live around us are in greater need of prayer than they are today?

Russia has everyone on edge.

- Killing people in Ukraine.
- And threatening everybody else, including the United States.

Nobody is happy with the economy right now, and for sure no one knows what direction it is going.

People are more morally confused than I have seen them in my lifetime.

People are divided philosophically and politically.

Many people are struggling spiritually as well, and more of us are saying if not singing the old Black American Spiritual, "Standin' In the Need of Prayer."

It's not my brother

Or my sister

But it's me O Lord, standin' in the need of prayer.

Well, did you know that in spite of all the ways our nation has changed, and not for the better, still the law of the land in **Title 36 of the U.S. Code, Subtitle I, Part A, Chapter 1, Paragraph 119** requires that

The President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as individuals.

This next Thursday will be The National Day of Prayer in the United States.

I am asking that all of us set aside some special time that day to pray.

For that purpose, I had prepared for you a single sheet of paper on which are printed three prayers that may help or guide you.

- One is a **PRAYER FOR PERSONAL REVIVAL.**
- A second is a **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL REVIVAL.**
- A third is a **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.**

You use these prayers in whatever way and to whatever degree they assist you, but I am asking that you pray, and in your praying, pray for revival, personally, in your family, in our church, in our community, in our nation, and in our world.

We need revival in our land.

We are all standing in the need of prayer, whether we know it or not.

THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Well for sure, this will be the final sermon I preach as a part of this series on the **THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.**

- I will preach a Mothers´ Day sermon next week!
- I´m not very smart, but I am smart enough to do that!
- And if you will bring your mother to be our guest in next week´s services, we will do our best to bless her with a wonderful time of worship and with the encouragement of the Word of God.

So let me get with it this morning. Let´s finish our examination of the **THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.**

We began last week asking, “What did Jesus do for the 40 days after the cross and resurrection?”

We saw two primary things Jesus did during that time.

First, **JESUS PROVED HE REALLY WAS THE SON OF GOD WHO HAD RISEN FROM THE DEAD.**

Secondly, **JESUS WAS TRAINING HIS WITNESSES TO TELL PEOPLE ABOUT THE THREE DAYS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD.**

- **Through the Scriptures**
- **Many infallible proofs**

Because of the limitations of time, we had to end right here.

153 fish!

Why does the Holy Spirit inspire John to write this?

Some of you searched for the answer with a Google search and found some crazy answers based on making the 153 into an allegory or symbol or such.

It's not! The Spirit told John to record the number because that is really how many fish they caught! 153 large fish!

The fact that the number is recorded is evidence that the story here is absolutely true.

Fishermen count their fish!

If they are exaggerating, they will say,

- Well, we caught a couple of dozen.
- Man, we caught a mess of fish.
- Must have been nearly a hundred, we didn't count.

I guarantee you, if it had been anywhere close to a hundred, they would have counted.

153 says, "THIS REALLY HAPPENED!"

Listen my friend,

- Jesus did not rise from the dead in a philosophical or spiritual sense, meaning that His ideals and rhetoric lived on after His body was dead and buried.
- Jesus arose bodily from the grave. He had the scars in His wrist and ankles and side, yet He was made whole and well.
- He stayed on this earth for forty days after the resurrection to prove to His disciples and a multitude of people that He came out of that tomb in a real body, a glorified resurrection body that could walk through walls and transport across great distances instantaneously, but a body that could be felt and touched and still enjoyed a good meal, even if it were smoked fish for breakfast.

Now, I also told you, I thought there was one more primary thing Jesus did.

Acts 1:1–3 NKJV 1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had **given commandments** to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

JESUS GAVE COMMANDMENTS TO HIS FOLLOWERS.

Jesus had told the disciples to meet Him on a mountain they all knew in Galilee.

So the disciples did.

This was probably the place Paul tells the Corinthians about when a crowd of over 500 people at once saw the Resurrected Christ.

And Jesus gave them a commandment. The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18–20 NKJV 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Jesus not only wanted people to hear and know for themselves the three days that changed the world.

He wanted His followers to make new disciples who would themselves know and believe what happened during that three days that changed the world.

- That Jesus paid the penalty for all our sins by His death on the cross.
- That with His shed blood He defeated Satan and opened the gates of Heaven for all who trusted in Him.
- That He rose bodily from the dead, and all who would trust in Him as Lord and Savior would live with God forever in a resurrection body just like His!

St. Andrew Baptist Church, thank you for being a body of followers of Christ who obey this command.

There are a lot of ways we as a church seek to obey these words of Jesus. But one of those ways is through our Mission Ministries at the Center of Hope.

A few weeks ago, I became aware of the testimony of a wonderful Christian lady who works in our Medical Ministry of our Center of Hope. I want you to hear her testimony.

If that doesn't turn you on, your battery's dead!

But I wanted you to hear that, because Chrissy and Carole and Delbert and all of you and other followers of Christ are walking in obedience to Jesus' command to make disciples.

Listen, not only do people walk out of the doors of that medical clinic with better health than they had when they walked in, some of them walk out with eternal life because inside those walls a follower of the Lord Jesus told them about the three days that changed the world!

And the same thing happens across the street at A Sheltering Tree, our Pregnancy Care Center.

And the same thing happens at the Benevolence Center. Dozens of people come away every day with food and clothing, but a few people every week come out with the Lord Jesus living inside of them because they have become brand new disciples of Christ.

Then Jesus went to see His half-brother in the flesh, James, who up to this point just could not believe that His older brother was the promised Messiah of God. But Jesus went to see him and let Him also touch His new resurrection body and see with His own eyes that Jesus had risen bodily from the dead.

And James believed and immediately became an avid follower of Christ and not too long afterward became the pastor of the church in Jerusalem born at Pentecost.

And it is in this appearance that Jesus speaks the words of Acts 1:8

Acts 1:8 NKJV But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

On the mountain, Jesus said, "make disciples of the nations" literally the people groups. Back in Jerusalem He told them to start in Jerusalem, then go to all of Judea, and then Samaria, and finally to the end of the earth.

And St. Andrew, I am grateful for your obedience to this command of Jesus also. We do not just support missionaries, we support them but we also go ourselves.

- **Bay County is our Jerusalem.**
- **FL and the Gulf Coast is our Judea.**
- **The rest of the U.S. and Canada is our Samaria.**
- **Everywhere else in the world is our end of the earth.**

And members of our church go to each of these areas.

In the end of the earth category, we have had people go to

- Mexico
- Canada
- Guatemala

- Haiti
- The Dominican Republic
- Brazil
- Peru
- Ghana
- Benin
- Togo
- Burkina Faso
- Nigeria
- Tanzania
- Ethiopia
- China
- Thailand
- Cambodia
- Philippines
- Malaysia
- Indonesia

And I am probably leaving some places out.

While I personally have been to a number of these places, sharing the gospel, the Lord blessed me with a special calling to Brazil so I keep track of the work there more carefully.

Do you know that this church has had boots on the ground from our membership helping to plant 44 churches in Brazil?

Riberão de Ilha, Florianopolis	Plant
Tapera, Florianopolis, SC	Plant
Ituporanga, SC	Plant
Itaiopolis, SC	Plant
Dionisio Cerquera, SC	Plant
Concordia, SC	Plant
Ingá, PB	Plant
Santana de Mangueira, PB	Plant
Mandacaru, João Pessoa, PB	Plant

Jardim Esther, João Pessoa, PB	Plant
Chápeco, SC	Plant
Cocal do Sul, SC	Plant
Itajá, RN	Plant
Ipânguaçu, RN	Plant
Praia da Pineira, SC	Plant
Petrolina, Valente, BA	Plant
Valiândia, Valente, BA	Plant
Redenção, Mossoró, CE	Plant
Alto da Pelonha, Mossoró, CE	Plant
Tanquinho, Valente, BA	Plant
Igapó, Natal, RN	Plant
Araquari, Joinville, SC	Plant
Sião, Retirolândia, BA	Plant
São Domingos, BA	Plant
Pendências, RN	Plant
Bela Vista, Açu, RN	Plant
Calvacante, Fortaleza, CE	Plant
Varjota, Fortaleza, CE	Plant
Rua Nova, Valente, BA	Plant
Encanto, RN	Plant
Tenente Ananias, RN	Plant
Tiradentes, PA	Plant
Nova Esperança, PA	Plant
Jorge Bueno, PA	Plant
Antônio Martins, RN	Plant
Rafael Fernandes, RN	Plant
Colina, Porto Alegre, RS	Plant
Cohab, Porto Alegre, RS	Plant
Buriti, Altamira, PA	Plant
Ayrton Sena, Altamira, PA	Plant
Botelhos, MG	Plant
Campestre, MG	Plant
São Bento, PB	Plant

In every one of these places, we had the privilege of sharing with men and women, boys and girls what wondrous things the Lord Jesus did, and how it changed our life, and how it could change theirs if they would trust in Him.

Our people have been a part of helping plant more than 100 churches in NE Ghana and across the borders into Togo and Benin.

If you haven't trusted Him yet, you can today.

If you have, but you are not yet busy making disciples, join us in making disciples somewhere right away!