

How To Survive – And Thrive – During the Sabbatical
August 17, 2008 * Acts 1:1-11

Ephesians 4:15-16 – “Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

I. To thrive during the sabbatical, what 3 things does this verse call us to do?

- 1. Look to _____ (for He’s our _____.)*
- 2. _____ each other (for we’re His _____.)*
- 3. Carry out the _____ assigned to me (for my _____ matters.)*

Which means we’re to be a:

- _____ community, and a*
- _____ community.*
- _____ community.*
- _____ community.*

What the book of Acts reminds us is that we’re also to be a:
_____ community.

II. The Context of Acts 1

- A. What would we have wanted Jesus to do right after His resurrection?*
- B. Yet Jesus didn’t do this. Was it because he didn’t want the world to know about Him?*
- C. So why didn’t Jesus make a big splash after he rose? Why doesn’t God just appear to us all from heaven?*
- D. What is God’s way then to spread the message of His kingdom?*

E. Did the disciples understand this at first?

F. When the angels asked, “Why are you looking up into heaven?” what were they saying to the disciples – and us?

III. What Provision To Jesus Give Us To Be His Witnesses

- A. We are given God’s _____.*
- B. We are given God’s _____.*
- C. We are given God’s _____.*

IV. If I struggle with evangelism, there are three questions Jesus might ask me:

- A. Do you _____ me enough?*
- B. Do you _____ in me enough?*
- C. Are you _____ enough?*

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Ephesians 4:15-16 – “Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

I. *To thrive during the sabbatical, what 3 things does this verse call us to do?*

1. Look to **Jesus** (for He’s our **Head**.)
2. **Love** each other (for we’re His **Body**.)
3. Carry out the **work** assigned to me (for my **ministry** matters.)

Which means we’re to be a:

Worshipping community, and a
Discipling community.
Fellowshipping community.
Serving community.

What the book of Acts reminds us is that we’re also to be a:

Reaching community.

II. *The Context of Acts 1*

A. *What would we have wanted Jesus to do right after His resurrection?*

Go public right away and rub his enemies noses in the truth that he was the Messiah.

B. *Yet Jesus didn’t do this. Was it because he didn’t want the world to know about Him?*

No. He spoke all the time about how he wanted his kingdom to grow and fill the earth.

C. *So why didn’t Jesus make a big splash after he rose? Why doesn’t God just appear to us all from heaven?*

Because God’s way is not to bully us into belief.

D. *What is God’s way then to spread the message of His kingdom?*

He honors our dignity and freedom by sending us messengers.

E. *Did the disciples understand this at first?*

No. Even they thought that Jesus was going to pull rank, use his power and restore Israel to power.

F. *When the angels asked, “Why are you looking up into heaven?” what were they saying to the disciples – and us?*

In essence what they are saying is, "Hey, Jesus is gone now, and one day he'll come back, and you won't miss it, because he'll come back just as he left. You've got work to do now. Now it's your turn. It's time to be a reaching community."

III. *What Provision To Jesus Give Us To Be His Witnesses*

A. *We are given God’s **power**.*

B. *We are given God’s **plan**.*

C. *We are given God’s **certainty**.*

IV. *If I struggle with evangelism, there are three questions Jesus might ask me:*

A. *Do you **love** me enough?*

B. *Do you **believe** in me enough?*

C. *Are you **bold** enough?*