

The Ripple Effect

Acts 1:8b

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- Familiar with RE? Stone in water; concentric circles spread to whole lake. (Pic). Test: finger in water pot. Also: car ind.; sports player injured. RE: continuing, spreading (affecting many) results of action.
- Today Asc, returns; coronation; (2nd) seated right hand in heavenly realms. Mission accomplished; like soldier goes to war, does job, return home; celebration, safe. Asc: home to heaven, celebration, mission accomplished. Went to war (Jesus' life); now returning home. Mission.
- That mission Jesus accomplished has RE on entire world:
 - Great exchange
 - Sins forgiven, taken away
 - God gives holiness, righteousness, entrance to heaven – Gospel
 - God gives HS for us to believe, faith
 - Peace in this life
 - Death, then our resurrection
 - Eternity in heaven --- why Jesus threw self into humanity; his mission has RE for all.
- Another RE at work today. **Vs. 8b**. Geography lesson: city, countries/regions, whole planet. “Witnesses” = spread Gospel to others. So when “**witnesses**,” means disciples would have RE on world! Start, expand/spread; Paul; centuries. World today: Gospel in all countries through witnessing mission work of Church. Hasn't stopped; continues (PDW). Jerusalem starting point: RE outward.
- Two questions: Where are you in the ripple? What ripples can you start?
- 1) Where are you in the ripple? How Gospel come to you? Grow up Christian? Ancestors? Someone from Europe? Trace lineage way back, always Christian? Or, come to faith sometime your life? Who instrumental? Friend, program on TV, visit church once, pastor? How Gospel first come to you? Or, how stay with you? Whose RE influencing you today? Parents, friends, Lutheran school teachers, pastors? I want you to think: what people have connected you to Gospel? Want you to realize: they had RE on you; part of movement of Gospel, started in Jerusalem, moved out over time to you! Why I ask: where are you in ripple? Somehow, somewhere someone (or many) have affected you; your faith shaped by Christian influence of others. By God's design; **vs. 8b**. People have witnessed JC to you; that has had effect on you and your faith. Where are you in ripple? Reason to think is to be thankful, especially on Asc, day when Jesus said, “**Witnesses.**” God sent witnesses to you, to share Gospel with you; why here today; why you are where you are in faith today. So thank God for RE others have had on you!
- 2) What ripples can you start? Or, how can you have effect on others? When said **vs. 8b**, wasn't just talking about other missionaries; you! Maybe not Jerusalem, ends of earth. But to all his disciples, incl you: “**witnesses.**” Think of RE you can have:
 - children (raise, church, school) and grandchildren; heritage
 - other family members (encourage their faith); goal – see them in heaven
 - casual conversations w/ friends, acquaintances, coworkers – them, their families, their eternity
- Point: when you witness JC to others (like stone in water, ripples spread) you'll have effect on countless lives, ways can't imagine. Every one of us is witness in own way, no matter what occupation is. But today can't help but think: Jesus still calls witnesses into full time public ministry. Some students here thought pastor, teacher, because love Jesus, want to witness to others. Please give serious thought; some would make great! If ever called/installed, I'd love to be there.
- Today **vs. 8b**. His life RE on our eternal salvation. His missionaries had RE on world (incl you/me). And his people, like you/me – when witness, make waves with Gospel – have RE on others. Just like stone in water (continuing, spreading effect), so you: spread Gospel, be part of God's RE.