

Acts 11-28

LeRoy Eims

I. Introduction.

- A. Disciples from all over the known world were converted while in Jerusalem in Acts 2.
- B. The disciples were trained, then scattered in the persecution.

II. There is no one who is “just a layman.”

- A. God’s great search is for a man among them.
- B. The church at Antioch where Christians get their name was founded by normal lay people.
- C. Each of us must take what God has given us and do it with all of our hearts.
- D. The great men of faith were mostly laymen. (Hebrews 11)

III. God anticipates and meets our needs.

IV. Paul takes the place of authority in his relationship with Barnabas. (12:25, 13:1, 13:7)

- A. One of the scandals of the church today is a grab for power.
- B. There was no problem when God raised Paul for Barnabas, and this should be a model for us.

V. It is important not only what we say, but how we say it. (Acts 14:1)

- A. Be a person that knows what you are talking about with your witness.
- B. Be a person who is convincingly passionate about what you share with the fire of God.
- C. Fire for God kindles fire for God.

VI. In witnessing we face two basic problems: the adulation of men and the persecution of men.

- A. Paul would not let adulation occur.
- B. Gage your leadership on the personal convictions of God not on people’s responses because they are fickle.

VII. The believers were so committed to God’s call that they followed Paul believing that what God had for him, God had for them. (Acts 16:7)

VIII. Paul gave a simple word of testimony - anyone can do this. (Acts 24)

- A. We are the salt of the earth - we make the world thirsty for God.

B. We are to so live that we make other people thirsty, and this means we must be out of “the shaker.”

IX. The thrust of our life should be to live void of offense before God and man.

A. This does not preclude 1 John 1:9.

B. We do this so our witness will be effective.

X. We will all have “storms” in life, and these must be addressed with faith. (Acts 27:25)

A. The greatest power in the universe dwells within us.

B. Grasp onto that power by faith.

XI. If we are going to serve God today we must give our lives to people and share the gospel with them.

Application questions

1. How does Paul show that one does not have to be a great theologian to be an effective witness? What did he do?

2. How did God use laymen in the book of Acts, and what does this mean for modern laymen in the church?

3. Which principle in the study of Acts stood out to you? How will you personally apply this principle to your own life?
