

April 18/19, 2009

“FEARLESS!”

Revelation 11:1-14 - Pastor Mark Burch

Ezekiel 37:4-5 ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

SERMON NOTES:

Home Group Discussion Questions

History (Making it Personal)

1. Maybe its time to share around the room a bit of your story – what understanding of the book of Revelation did you grow up with? How has it affected the way you read the book? What confused you – and what made great sense??
2. Talk about a time in your life – when you had to take a stand for Christ that was uncomfortable and/or fearful? What was the circumstance? How did you handle it? Did you take the stand? Or did you “cave in?”
3. Talk for a moment about the “demise” of the church. Many people are talking about how the church is on the way out....it won't last another generation – at least not in North America....do you believe that? Why or why not? What will have to change for the church to prevail? How can we “shake things up” a bit? How do we gain courage?

Digging Deeper (Looking to the Bible)

4. Read Revelation 11:1-14
5. Talk about the New Testament image of the temple in John 2:19-21; Acts 7:48-49 & 17:24; I Corinthians 3:16-17 & Revelation 21:22. Is John measuring a physical building or a people? How is this “temple” protected or surrounded – and how does that concept fit with the rest of Revelation and all the turmoil we see coming down? Read also Zechariah 2:3-5 – God's protection.
6. The text is clear – the witnesses will be opposed. They will stand in the face of great opposition and ultimately be slain. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-12; Hebrews 10:32-39 and talk about the role of endurance. Is “fearless” a word that would describe my/your life? Does it describe the testimony of the “church” today?
7. The witnesses have incredible power – they can stop the rain, they can call down fire from heaven, they turn the waters of the world into blood. How do you picture the authority that Jesus Christ has invested in His church? When He said we'd do greater things that He did...when He gave us the “keys to the kingdom” (Matthew 16:19) what do you think He was really investing in us? Have we missed something?
8. Read Ephesians 1:18-21 and talk about it phrase by phrase....do we understand our inheritance?? Do we grasp our power? Are we that fearless?

Taking It Home (Application)

9. Talk about Willow Park Church for a moment. Are we known as a risk-taking community of faith that is “fearless” in our presentation of the truth? What would characterize us if we were?
10. How about your life? Are you one who is willing to step out in great faith and risk? When you get knocked down – do you get right back up again? Are there some dry bones in your life that God needs to breathe new life into? (Ezekiel 37)
11. Pray for WPC in this season of change....What is it that God is saying to you about the next chapter? We know FOR SURE that HE has a plan for this church – (it is HIS!) – so what are you hearing from Him?

Revelation 14:12 “This calls for patient endurance of the part of the saints.”