

February 28, 2010

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Each of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles includes a commissioning statement from Jesus to his disciples. After his resurrection and before he ascends into heaven, he prepares and commissions his disciples to continue his ministry.

In Acts, Jesus instructs his disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes into their lives, they will be his witnesses.

This is still true today: in the Gospel stories, we meet Jesus and, by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, we are his witnesses as we live our lives. (Note that Jesus says that you *\*will be\** ... not you *\*should be\** ...)  
We *\*are\** his witnesses -- whether we want to or not.

Witnessing takes many forms, including living a Godly life and sharing our faith, and prayer is the essential first step. Jesus instructs his disciples to wait (in prayer) for the Holy Spirit's leadership. It is essential to pray that God prepares our hearts to be witnesses, and that God prepares the hearts of our friends, neighbors, and loved ones with whom we will share our faith.

Today, think about five (5) people in your life who need to learn about (or be reminded about) the love and grace of God. (These should be people you know personally.) You may want to ask God to show you which five (5) people in your life most need your prayers. Pray for them by name today and pray for them by name each day this week. Ask God to touch their hearts, that they may know how much God loves them.

Ask God to prepare you to be a witness to them.