Ekklesia Growth

Brent Moody · Acts 13:1–18:28 · Series: **The Way Forward**

INTRODUCTION

- I want to spend some time in Acts working through this idea of how congregations grow and what does that even mean?
- The initial concept of God's statement here was about expanding his glory throughout creation.
- And so both aspects of growth are extremely important when it comes to Jesus and his people.

1 The Ecclesia Is About a Mission, Not a Product

Acts 13:3

- If we're going to be part of this movement to spread the message of Jesus Christ, we have to understand that the ecclesia is about a mission. It's not about a product.
- Joining the ecclesia is about joining a mission. It's not about consuming.
- If we're going to help the mission of Jesus grow in the world, we have to be participants and not just consumers.
- Our mission is not to convert people to the Decker Prairie Church. Our mission is to convert people to Jesus Christ.
- After fasting and praying, they laid their hands on them and they sent them off.
- And so there's no place for being territorial or competitive.

2 Going Into Our World: Speaking and Living Truth

Acts 8:4; Ephesians 4:11–12

- The more applicable way that we can go, you and I, is just within our own daily life.
- Those who were scattered went about preaching the word.
- Am I willing to speak and to live truth day to day? What do people know about me?
- Are we not just speaking the gospel, but are we also properly living it?
- We are not called to fully outsource Jesus' mission to others.
- Scripture tells us as we move into the epistles that we should be equipping all the saints.

3 It Is Not All on Us

Acts 13; 1 Corinthians 15

- To spread the gospel, to preach Jesus to the world, we need to trust that God is going to open hearts, that he's going to open doors for us.
- I don't have to force truth on people.
- Some just aren't ready to listen. They don't want to hear, so you plant a seed and you move on.
- Teach people the gospel before getting into complex doctrinal issues and denominational debates.

- Be like Paul. This is what he taught first, 1 Corinthians 15. The death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

4 Faithfulness, Awareness, Responsiveness

Ephesians 4; Acts 16

- We just can't manufacture growth.
- And so it's faithfulness, my own dedication and my own loyalty to the mission and to Jesus Christ Himself.
- And then number two, awareness. Being ready, looking around, seeing these opportunities.
- And then number three, this may be the hardest, responsiveness.
- The two dangers there is that we try to force doors open that aren't ready to open, or that we miss opportunities.
- We pray for open doors and look for them.

THE CHALLENGE

I pray within myself that as I see them, I will take those opportunities and that you will too.

MY NOTES