

FULFILLING THE GREAT
COMMISSION

OVERCOMING COMPLACENCY IN SPREADING THE GOSPEL

HOW IT APPEARS

- Matthew 28:18-20: *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

HOW IT APPEARS

- Mark 16:15-16: Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

HOW IT APPEARS

- Luke 24:46-49: Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

WHAT HAPPENED

- The church explodes on Pentecost!
- Everywhere the Twelve turn, there are more and more people being baptized into Jesus and added to the church.
- Even Gamaliel is forced to admit that there *just might* be something to what they are teaching.

WHAT HAPPENED

- After they sort through a rough patch, “a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.”
- Everything is going great! So many of the Jews in Jerusalem are coming to Jesus as their King!
- ...in Jerusalem...
- ...but what about the rest of the world?

WHAT HAPPENED

- I don't claim to know why God does everything that He does. What I do try to do is notice patterns.
- When God tells His people to do something, and they don't do it, they often get a little...motivation.
- Look at the following events...

WHAT HAPPENED

- Stephen is seized and martyred.
- Saul of Tarsus stands by and approves of his execution.
- Acts 8:1: And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

WHAT HAPPENED

- Listen to what Gamaliel says in *Acts 5:34-39*.
- Maybe the Twelve could have heeded his wisdom.

THE STRUGGLES WE FACE

- Sometimes, we lose the fire (2 Timothy 1:6).
- Sometimes, we're so busy "preaching the Gospel" that we don't "preach the Gospel" (Titus 1:5).
- Sometimes, love for souls dies a slow death (Revelation 2:4).