

As We Are One (Compilation)

by Compilations

The sermon emphasizes the importance of the true church being a diverse and inclusive community, and the need for believers to break through into new realities and not be satisfied with the status quo.

Duration: 5:10

Scripture: Matthew 14:23, Luke 19:40, John 17:20-21, Acts 7:59-60, Acts 13:1-3, Acts 17:6, Hebrews 11:37-38

Topics: "Compilation"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the sacrifices made by early believers who were sent forth by the Holy Ghost. These believers faced persecution, imprisonment, and even death for their faith. The preacher reminds the audience that they are being watched by a cloud of invisible witnesses, who are waiting to see if they will be satisfied with the status quo or if they will strive for a deeper spiritual experience. The preacher also emphasizes the importance of unity within the church, highlighting the diversity of the early believers and emphasizing that the true church is not limited to a specific social or economic group.

Transcript

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place where he prayed. When he heard this, he was moved, and he said to Peter and the rest of the disciples, Brothers, we are going to Jerusalem. Peter said, you are going to be there for a few days.

And when the Jewish New Year approached, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And for those also who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. The glory which you have given me, I have given to them, that they may be one, even as we are one.

Barnabas was a Hebrew, an Israelite. Simeon, that was called Niger, was likely, according to most biblical scholars, to be a black man. Lucius of Cyrene is yet another nationality, Gentile.

Menaion, which has been brought up with Herod the Tetrarch, was a Roman, and Saul, we know, was a Jew. You say, what has that got to do with anything? And my answer is, everything. The true church is not a country club, where people of the same economic and social status have a little cozy thing going together.

The true church is the expression of the local believers in a given locality. If they're black, they're white, they're Jewish, they're Gentile, they're older, they're younger, they're poor, they're skinny, they're fat, they're every shape and size and description. But they are God's people together.

There's those that sowed in the Spirit, and those that labored, and those that believed, and those that persevered, and those that held on, and those that weren't moved by earthly things. But believed God, believed God, supported by His grace, sowed in the Spirit. For these men that were separated by the Holy Ghost by name, and were sent forth by the laying on of hands, shook the earth and turned cities upside down.

Don't tell me about successful ministries. They can't compare to the apostolic splendor and the glory of what happened from those who were sent forth out of Antioch. For God's sake, wake up! Tell you, some of those that were sent forth by the Holy Ghost never returned.

They found themselves stoned to death, imprisoned, burned at the stake, sawn asunder. They wandered naked and destitute, they lived in caves and holes. And do you want to know something tonight? You can bet your life on it.

We are surrounded this night by a cloud of invisible witnesses. Of the very men that I'm describing are watching this service tonight. I'm getting a chill goosebumps half inch high.

I had to laugh. I had to laugh. This service is being watched by a cloud of invisible witnesses who will not be perfect without you.

They're wondering if you're going to get with it. They're wondering if you're going to be satisfied with the status quo, and be just another groovy and successful church, or you're going to break through into the kind of realities that will again shake the earth.

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