

**Sermon #3**

**"The Church Gets to Work"**

**Acts 3-4**

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**Introduction:** More than 300,000 churches exist in the United States. In 1900, there were 27 churches for every 10,000 people; today, there are 12 churches for every 10,000 people, with an estimated 3,500 churches closing their doors yearly.

I love this definition of what church is supposed to be, "*The church is not a refrigerator for preserving personal piety; it is a dynamo for changing human wills with power. The church is not a store to furnish hammocks for the lazy; it is an equipping house that offers well-fitted yokes to handle life's load. The church is not a place to dodge life's difficulties; it is a place that furnishes strength and courage to meet them.*"

In Acts 1, the disciples encounter the **Person** of Christ. The Risen, Resurrected Christ makes Himself known. In Acts 2, the disciples encounter the **Power** of Christ. The Holy Spirit comes to church, on the Day of Pentecost, and gives birth to the church. In Acts 3-4, the disciples encounter the **Purpose** of Christ. The church gets to work fulfilling the purpose for which she was birthed.

The work of the early church is the same work God expects of the modern church. The methods may change, but the motive remains the same. Let's notice how, when, where, and why the church went to work. First of all, the church goes to work:

**Outline**

**1. Witnessing for the Lord!**

A) *The Man They Encountered*

B) *The Miracle They Experienced*

1) The Success of It

2) The Source of It

3) The Season of It

**2. Walking with the Lord!**

A) *In the Midst of a Political System*

B) *In the Might of a Powerful Savior*

1) Average Men

2) Anointed Men

3) Ambitious Men

**3. Waiting on the Lord!**

A) *In Prayer*

B) *For Power*