Mat. 12, 1977

Acts 1:1-12

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That's not going to be. It's a matter of a heart relation and of your going out and telling others and bringing them into this great spiritual kingdom! Then they say, Lord wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"

Well, I've had the experience in class many times when I've explained a thing many times and somebody says, Will you explain this? And it's very hard to be patient as you explain it over again. But imagemeet imagine you spend 40 days trying to get a concept across! And then somebody comes up with a question like this. What's the use? Why bother with these people any longer? I can't get an idea across to them at all. He said to them in Luke "You fools and slow of heart not to believe all the prophets have spoken; ought not Christ to have suffered these things?" But He didn't talk like that here.

Here He said, I''s not for you to know the times nor the seasons. The implication is, there is no misunderstanding in your asking about restoring the kingdom to Israel. But the thing is you are not to know the times or seasons which the Lord has put in His own power. Jesus answered, Yes, there is to be a restoration of the kingdom, but you are not to know when because your task, that's

out and be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. That is our task and that is the task of every Christian. That is what God has called us to do. Not to fight about points of theology, but to find that which brings comfort to our souls, to give a true understanding as much as we can. But our commission is to go out and tell about Christ and get people saved through Him and get those who have been saved and show them how they can grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord. That is our commission —not merely to those who are ordained, not merely toministers, not merely to those in so-called full time Christian service. But to every Christian and for that He gives to every Christian the power of the Holy Spirit. He intends every Christian to work at that. That is our commission.

Our commission is while we wait for His return which we are not to know when it will be. If we all agreed it was going to be today, we can be pretty sure it isn't because it will be unexpected. If we all agree He can't come for 1000 years, it looks more as if He's going to come today. He said, It's not for you to know the times or seasons, but we are to look for it, to watch for it. We're to be occupied with His commission. You shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. That doesn't mean He wants every one of us to go to the uttermost parts of the earth to preach. But He wants every one of us to have an interest in His work in the uttermost parts of the earth. He wants each of us to do what we can to assist and back up those who are carrying the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth He wants us to go there if the uttermost parts of the earth He wants us wherever we are to