



Last Sunday we began a new series in the first two chapters of Acts, entitled The New Kingdom of Jesus. With a few major projects currently going on or just finished MRC face some changes. CCC has been planted the Irving building may come our way it may not but the big question we want to ask is what is next for MRC? What is the mission of the church of Jesus Christ.

### **The Question**

The apostles in Acts 1 have just witnessed the death and resurrection of Jesus, the messiah. They are beginning to understand more and more about who Jesus is and what he came to do. They ask Jesus, “Is it at this time that you’re going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” Meaning is it now that you’re going to end all things and set up your earthly rule forever and ever? Jesus had fulfilled Old Testament prophecies including his death, resurrection, he’d promised the Holy Spirit and so it seemed right to ask if it was now the end of the world.

### **The Answer**

Jesus says that their mission right now was to wait for the Holy Spirit and then be his witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. The new kingdom of Jesus was to be proclaimed to all nations and to all people. This is the task for the church before Jesus comes back.

### **What’s next?**

The church today is called to continue to take this same message to bear witness to Jesus Christ’s changing work in our lives. The church is to wait and expect the

return of Jesus but not to be distracted by it or ignore it but live and speak for Jesus until he comes.

Here are some questions to dig deeper and to discuss for application...

How do you feel about the things going on in MRC at the moment? Specifically CCC going and the Irving building prospects?

What do you believe is/are the purpose(s) of the church of Jesus Christ?

Do you see MRC as being a part of God’s global plan and the work he is and has been doing for 2000 years? Why or why not?

Why did the apostles ask Jesus about the timing of the restoration of the Kingdom? (Think about the importance of the Easter events and the promise of the Holy Spirit)

Discuss what you know about Jesus’ teaching on the kingdom of God? Use these references to help you – ( Mark 1:14-15; 4:11-12; 9:1; 10:14-15; Luke 4:43; 8:1, 10; 9:27; 10:9-11; 13:18-20; 13:29; 17:20-21; 18:17; 21:29-31; 22:18)

Do you believe Jesus is coming back? What makes you sure about your beliefs?

How does the return of Jesus shape your life?

How does it shape the mission of the church? Can you think of any examples?

How does the promise of Jesus’ return help you when life is difficult and mission is hard?

What was the command Jesus gave to the apostles in verse 8?

Why does Jesus specifically mention ‘Jerusalem’, ‘Judea and Samaria’ and ‘the ends of the earth’? What’s the significance of these places? And what new revelation does it bring about the kingdom of God?

How would you have felt if you were among those people hearing Jesus’ commands and watching him disappear into the sky? What encouragement do the words of the two men dressed in white bring?

What does it mean to be a witness for Jesus Christ?

How does this command to go and be witnesses apply to us at MRC and you personally?

Where is the Lord sending you to be a witness?

How do we as a church help one another be a witness together?