

# **A Witness of With-ness**

## **Sermon Main Idea**

When we've been with Jesus, people will know it.

## **Table of Contents**

- Look at an event- Acts 4:7-14
- Hit rewind- Matt 5:13-16, v.43-45, Luke 6:27-28
- Push pause- 1 John 4:7-12
- Hit play- 1 Cor 13:4-8a

## **Look at an Event (Acts 4:7-14)**

The boldness, power and wisdom of God working through the disciples reveals that they had been with Jesus.

## **Hit Rewind (Mt. 5.13-16; 43-48; Lk 6.27-28)**

Jesus taught that his disciples are to be salt and light by impacting their world for God's glory. They do this when they live Jesus' way.

One of the clearest examples of this radical new way of life is loving and blessing one's enemies.

## **Push Pause (1 Jn 4.7-16)**

The only way we can love one another the way God does is by abiding in God.

## **1 Corinthians 13.4-8a**

By God's spirit God has empowered us to love his way.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Like the religious leaders in Acts 4, there are times when we encounter people who clearly know Jesus.
  - a. Who have you known or met that after being with them it was clear that they knew Jesus?
  - b. What was it about them that revealed they had a close relationship with God?
  
2. In Mt. 5 we see that Jesus teaches that his followers are salt and light in the world. One of the clearest ways that they impact the world is through their radical and supernatural love.
  - a. What is an example you have seen of someone loving their enemy? What kind of impact did this example have?
  - b. Since coming to Christ, what are some of the ways that God has transformed the way you love?
  - c. What are some ways that you are currently being challenged to love others better?
  - d. In light of the current cultural challenges we are facing, what are some tangible ways that you see the church can better live out this radical love right now?
  
3. John teaches us in 1 John 4 that the only way we can love like God is by abiding in God.
  - a. What does it mean to “abide in God?”
  - b. What does it look like to live a life characterized by abiding in God?
  - c. How do we make sure that we don’t turn our times of devotion and communion with God into mere religious exercises, as opposed to quality time with Jesus?