

## FWG - Acts 1:8b

**Author:** Jonathan Blaylock

**Song:** *All Creatures of Our God and King*

<https://youtu.be/MUZD0hgtSgE>

**Prayer:** Lord, please calm our minds and our hearts so that we can hear from you and learn from you tonight.

**Text:** Acts 1:8b

**Explanation:** Jesus tells us to be his witnesses. Our emphasis here though is on the location, and reach, of our witness efforts: *Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth*. Jerusalem was their immediate context, their local neighborhood, their city. Judea is more of a regional area. The ends of the earth is international. Samaria though is more interesting. Samaritans were a race of people that the Jewish people clashed with. Racial tension was a major issue. Jews would often reroute their trip to avoid Samaria. Jesus is telling his followers that enemy territory should be a geographical location for their witness.

Also, pay attention to the conjunction, the connecting word. It is not “or,” but “and.” The command is not, “...Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, **or** the ends of the earth.” Rather, it is “...Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, **and** the ends of the earth.” Also, notice the lack of the “first, then” qualification. It is not “...*First* Jerusalem, *then* Judea, *then* Samaria, *and then* the ends of the earth.” Jesus does not expect us to treat this progressively, mastering one area before moving to the next. Instead, Jesus expects simultaneously being a witness in each geographical location.

**The Point:** Believers are called to go local, regionally, and internationally with the gospel, even to people we do not like!

**Application:** As Christians, your family should be on the mission field, locally, regionally, and internationally, and with enemies. How can you do this?

**Pre-K & Elementary Age:** Sing, *Jesus Loves the Little Children*. Get a globe out, or a map, or Google Maps, and spend some time looking at the world. Show your child your neighborhood, zoom out to NC, then the US, then the World. Google different international cultures.

**Middle & High School Students:** Discuss different cultures (Middle Eastern, Asian, Latino, etc.). Discuss God’s love for the world. Discuss mission possibilities as an option after high school. What are your life goals? Ambitions? How does bringing glory to God fit into your life plan? Have you ever been on a mission trip? Regionally or

Internationally? Pray for other cultures, especially those that would stereotypically be considered enemies. How can you be a witness locally? At school?

**Young Adult:** What are your life goals? Ambitions? How does bringing glory to God fit into your life plan? Have you ever been on a mission trip? Regionally or Internationally? Pray for other cultures, especially those that would stereotypically be considered enemies. How can you be a witness locally?

**Adult:** What is your outlook towards “Samaritan” type people? How do you view our nation’s enemies? Do you pray for them? Do you pray that the gospel would reach them? How are you teaching your children or grandchildren about missions? Have you ever been on a mission trip? Regionally or Internationally? Pray for other cultures, especially those that would stereotypically be considered enemies.

**Empty Nesters:** What is your outlook towards “Samaritan” type people? How do you view our nation’s enemies? Do you pray for them? Do you pray that the gospel would reach them? How are you teaching your children or grandchildren about missions? Have you ever been on a mission trip? Regionally or Internationally? Pray for other cultures, especially those that would stereotypically be considered enemies. How are you using your retirement and your empty nest to bring glory to God? Do you have some free time that you could commit to the mission field?

**Song:** He Reigns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8R9ZPT2T-I>

**Prayer:** Lord, you are sovereign! You have saved us for a purpose! Guide our family. Help us to be the witness you would have us to be. Give us opportunities to go.