

You're a Part of the Team!

Acts 4

February 6-7, 2010

Introduction

- Video
- This is Super Bowl Sunday. Later today, at 6:28 pm, the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints will play the biggest single sporting event in the United States.
- There are individual stars on each team – Peyton Manning, Drew Brees, Reggie Wayne, Reggie Bush, etc. In fact, one of the players will be the Super Bowl MVP (Most Valuable Player).
- But when a team wins, a team wins – all 53 men on the roster. In fact, for a team to win, it will take a team to win the game.
- As Northside faces the challenges ahead (the making of disciples, the elimination of our debt, the renovation of our facilities) it will take a team – and not merely a few good players.
- I'm not looking to recruit more players for Northside's team, I'm looking to encourage you, that if Northside is your church, "You're a Part of the Team!"
- Open your bibles to Acts 4
- I believe that we can accomplish all God has for us, if we can encourage every member of the team to their responsibilities on the team
- You're a Part of the Team...

Challenge

- **Play Together as a Team : Unity**
 - Acts 4:32a
 - 32 *All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.*
 - ✓ "All the believers..." = KJV or NASB's "congregation of those who believed"; The individuals (many, plural) believe but the assembly or multitude is one (singular)

- ✓ “...were one in heart and mind.” = There is a unity in the heart (center and source of the whole inner life) and soul (the essence of life in terms of thinking, willing and feeling) of the church
- Jesus was so concerned about unity among His disciples that He includes it in His prayer right before the cross – John 17:20-21
 - 20 *My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,*
 - 21 *that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*
- The power of the gospel is bound up in our unity with one another
- Little can be or will be accomplished in our church or on a team without unity
- There will not be unity if everyone is not “playing” or functioning together
- How much unity will there be on a team where some players come to every practice and others only come 25-50% of the time – and they are not sick or injured? How about a church where members rarely attend while others attend regularly?
- How much unity will there be on a team where some players rarely put in any effort at practice and others do? How about a church where members rarely serve while others serve often?
- How much unity will there be on a team where some players run the plays called while others ignore the coach? How about a church where some members rarely or barely give and others regularly and sacrificially give?
- Thank you to those who regularly give to Northside (attend services, volunteer your time, give of God’s blessings)
- Greater Investment = Start Investing
- Encouragement to those not regularly giving to Northside
 - ✓ Giving is \$108K behind budget
 - ✓ Used \$50K of the LOC this week
 - ✓ \$1 a week challenge for a year (\$1,378 in the first year and \$2,704 after that)
- You’re a Part of the Team – so either start playing together as a team or encourage one another to play together as a team

- **Prepare to Play : Discipline**

- Acts 4:32, 34-35

- 32 *All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.*
- 34 *There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales*
- 35 *and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.*
- ✓ “...*any of his possession was his own, but they shared...*” = This is not communism (the possessions are still individually owned) but generosity and stewardship
 - ✓ “...*as he had need.*” = This wasn't the everyday practice but arose as individuals had need
 - How could they give generously at the time that others had need?
 - Discipline
 - The discipline of stewardship = to manage God's blessings well so that I can take a significant part in His work
 - I could not play in the Super Bowl this year. Neither Coach Caldwell or Coach Payton will be giving me a call. Why?
 - Besides a lack of ability – I have not disciplined myself for the game, neither physically nor mentally
 - An undisciplined team cannot carry out what they are supposed to do.
 - Northside struggles financially not just because of a bad economy but because of undisciplined players
 - ✓ 40-55% of regular attendees or members give less than \$250 a year (\$5 a week)
 - ✓ \$1 a week challenge for a year (5.5x in the first year and 11x after that)
 - ✓ Give every week whether you are here or not (online giving)
 - How have so many Christians gotten into so much debt to the hindrance of what they can give God?
 - They've lost focus of what is eternal – Colossians 3:1-2
 - 1 *Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*
 - 2 *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*
 - It's time to set our minds on things above – 1 Timothy 6:10-11

10 *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

11 *But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.*

- This Stewardship Emphasis is a call back to a disciplined life – including the discipline of Stewardship leading to the ability to generously give to the Lord’s Work
- Crown Classes – Wed. Feb. 10 (6:45 pm) and Sun. Feb. 14 (4:00 pm)
- You’re a Part of the Team – so prepare yourself to play by living so that you can play

- **Listen to the Coach : Obedience**

- Acts 4:33

33 *With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.*

- ✓ “...continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...” = Cp. Acts 4:29-31; the disciples continue to do what the Lord (their Coach) has instructed them to do
- Would we consider it a good team if they never listened to their coach and the instructions he gave or the plays he called?
- Or worse, what if some did listen and others didn’t but did their own thing or listened to someone else?
- The Lord is our Coach and giving (stewardship) is a part of what He has commanded His followers – look at the Sermon on the Mount
- Matthew 6:1 , “*Be careful not to do your acts of righteousness before men...*”
- Matthew 6:2, “*So when you give to the needy...*”
- Matthew 6:5, “*And when you pray...*”
- Matthew 6:14, “*For if you forgive men when they sin against you...*”
- Matthew 6:16, “*When you fast...*”
- Are we to do acts of righteousness, pray, forgive and fast? Is Christ commanding this or suggesting it?
- If He is commanding these, then He is also commanding giving!
- Proverbs 3:9, “*Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;*”
- The Lord (our Coach) has commanded His followers (team) to give
- His closest disciples (team captains) have passed on the command

- 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, “*Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. 2 On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”*
- Galatians 6:7-10, “*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”*
- How do you know how to or if you are “doing good” or “pleasing the Spirit”?
- Listen to the Coach
- As for giving, the Lord has already told His people to give
- As for giving in this Emphasis, talk to the Lord and listen to the Lord
- 15-day Prayer Commitment
- You’re a Part of the Team – so find out what the Coach wants you to do and do it

Response

- **Encourage one another**
 - Group Fellowships
 - 15-Day Prayer Commitment
 - Family Conference
- **Live so that you can play**
 - Examine your life
 - Set your heart on the things above
 - Discipline your life (Crown classes – Feb. 10 and 14)
- **Find out what the Coach wants you to do**
 - Prayer – individual and corporate
 - Commitment weekend = February 20-21
 - First Fruits weekend = March 20-21