

## Acts of Jesus – part 8

--Acts 2:1-6, 41--On a regular basis our church receives a number of offers to help us market the gospel: Glossy publications, better sound, nicer pulpit, professional graphics.

--Not that there is anything wrong with presenting a nice image---but God has only one marketing plan for His Gospel--people who are on fire for Him (this marketing plan works 100% of the time).

--Remember the context of this passage: Acts 1:8

--God sends us His Holy Spirit to birth us, baptize us, seal us and indwell us, but He also sends Him so we can be living advertisements for Him.

--Jesus predicted this very early in His ministry: Matt. 5:14-16

--Today there are a lot of options in the area of lighting: incandescent, fluorescent, halogen, neon, LED--back then there was only one == A flame.

--That is what we are—a flame—something eye catching, illuminating, warming to our world.

The little village of Rattenberg is the smallest town in Austria, and getting smaller each year. The town has lost 20 percent of its population in the past two decades, and as of 2005 had only 440 residents. The reason? Darkness. Rattenberg is nestled behind Rat Mountain—a 3,000-foot obstruction that blocks out the sun from November to February. But thanks to some clever new technology, the town's situation is about to get a little brighter. An Austrian company called Bartenbach Lichtlabor has come up with a plan to bring sunshine into the darkness by installing 30 heliostat mirrors onto the mountainside. The mirrors will grab light from reflectors on the sunny side of the mountain and shine it back into the town. In the same way, we celebrate Christmas as the time when God sent his own light into our world, through Jesus, and offered relief from the darkness of our sin. And Christians all over the world who have experienced that forgiveness are called to reflect his light to those who still need it.

### 1. An excellent illustration of who we are in this world is given to us in the book of Exodus.

#### Ex. 3:1-3

--Several things to point out here:

1. Moses was just going about his business (40 years worth) when he spotted something unusual -- he'd seen burning bushes before he's never seen one that wasn't destroyed.

--We should be a stand out

--We should be unusual

--Our lives should be eye catching

--A city on a hill gets your attention when your eyes are accustomed to the darkness.

--Don't be afraid to stand out --- that's what you're supposed to do.

2. This was just a bush-- nothing special about it. There were, no doubt, many bushes near it that were just like it.

--Scripture doesn't say much about the bush---ever wondered why?

<<Any old bush will do as long as God is in it>>

--Safe to assume = It wasn't a pretty bush.

= It wasn't a educated bush.

= It wasn't an eloquent bush.

3. This bush was consumed but not destroyed.

--Likewise, God is not going to destroy us, but He does want to consume us

--Make no mistake about it – God's intent is to consume us.

--More than just being central in our lives --- consume our lives so we can be a living advertisement for Him.

--John Wesley put it like this:

**“When the fire of God touches your life people will come and see you burn.”**

--That's what happened on the day of Pentecost: Men and Women were set on fire by the Spirit of God and people gathered to watch them burn.  
Are you on fire?

--In this train of thought Jim Elliot once said:

**Am I ignitable?**

**God, deliver me from the dread asbestos of "other things"**

**Saturate me with the oil of thy Spirit that I may flame.**

**Make me thy fuel, Flame of God.**