

# ARISE AND BUILD

Neh. 2:20

*Invite Your One – Time to “Arise and Build”*

Neh. 2:20 Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore **we his servants will arise and build:** but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

This morning we will stay with our theme, *Arise and Build*, but we will take a break from the Book of Nehemiah and focus our attention on...

## Invite Your One

The *Invite Your One* is a program that we want to invite and incorporate everyone to be involved. During the next three weeks, we will consider how this program can help us individually, and consequently, corporately as a church. We will consider not only the “how,” but also the “why” we should be excited to get involved. The ultimate reason is...**to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.**

We begin by going to Jn. 14:12-14:

## Invite Your One

John 14:12-14

### *“A Greater Work”*

Jn. 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, **the works that I do shall he do** also; and **greater works** than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, **that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, **I will do it.**

What makes something stick? Why are we “religious” about doing some things and let other things slip? Ask it another way: Is God in it?

1. Why would God use your church (corporately)?
2. Why would God use you (individually)?

Jesus promises a “greater work” in John 14:12 for those who believe in Him.

- Greater does not mean more power.
- Greater does not mean knowledge. You can't have more power or knowledge than Jesus.
- **Greater means extent:** Jesus' ministry was limited to three years in a specific geographic range within the Middle East.
- Today, **our church has the mandate to go to all people in all nations.**

Sometimes the biggest line to cross isn't a geopolitical boundary; sometimes it's a property line.

- A great work may be in your backyard.

What if everyone in the church reached one person this year?  
The church would double in size!

## I. THE ORIGIN OF A GREAT WORK = Started by the Lord Jesus Christ

### Acts 1:1-14

- Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection get much attention (rightly so.)
- We celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

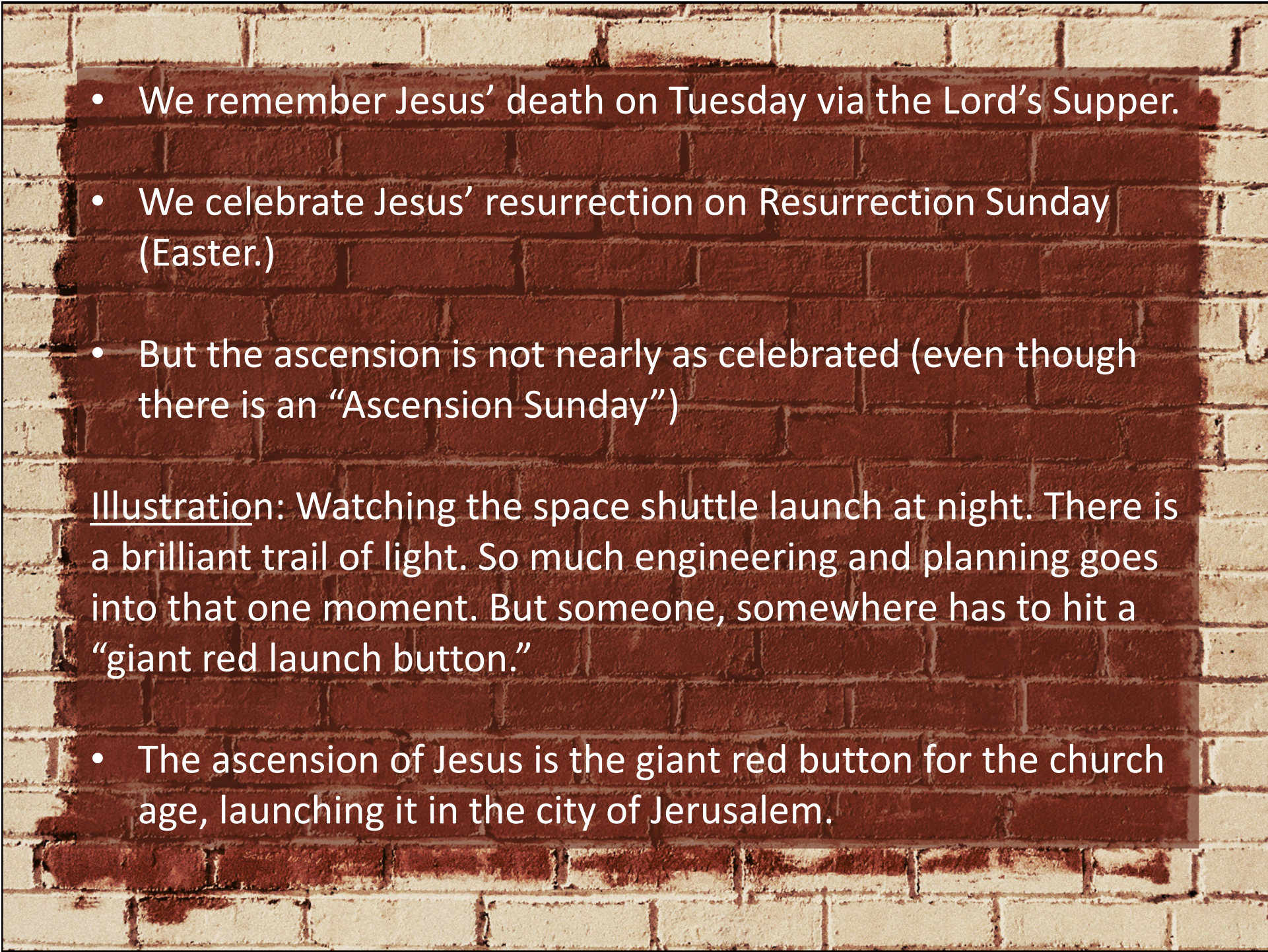
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- We remember Jesus' death on Tuesday via the Lord's Supper.
  - We celebrate Jesus' resurrection on Resurrection Sunday (Easter.)
  - But the ascension is not nearly as celebrated (even though there is an "Ascension Sunday")

Illustration: Watching the space shuttle launch at night. There is a brilliant trail of light. So much engineering and planning goes into that one moment. But someone, somewhere has to hit a "giant red launch button."

- The ascension of Jesus is the giant red button for the church age, launching it in the city of Jerusalem.

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

- Paraphrasing what the angel said right after the ascension: “What are you doing standing around! Get to work!”
- An inactive Christian does not understand the significance of the ascension.
- An inward church will never be a great church on the move.

Luke 24:50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.

51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

52 And **they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:**

53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen

- The disciples move after being rebuked by the angel. They worship, have great joy, and eventually take the gospel to the world.
- A totally inappropriate response to King Jesus: standing around and staring. Believers that honor God are on the move.



## II. THE OPERATION OF A GREAT WORK = Sustained by the Lord Jesus Christ

- Sometimes the hardest boundary to cross isn't a geopolitical line on a map. Sometimes it's a property line. Love your neighbor!

Heb. 10:24 And **let us consider one another** to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 **Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together**, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: **and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

A few principles are found in this text:

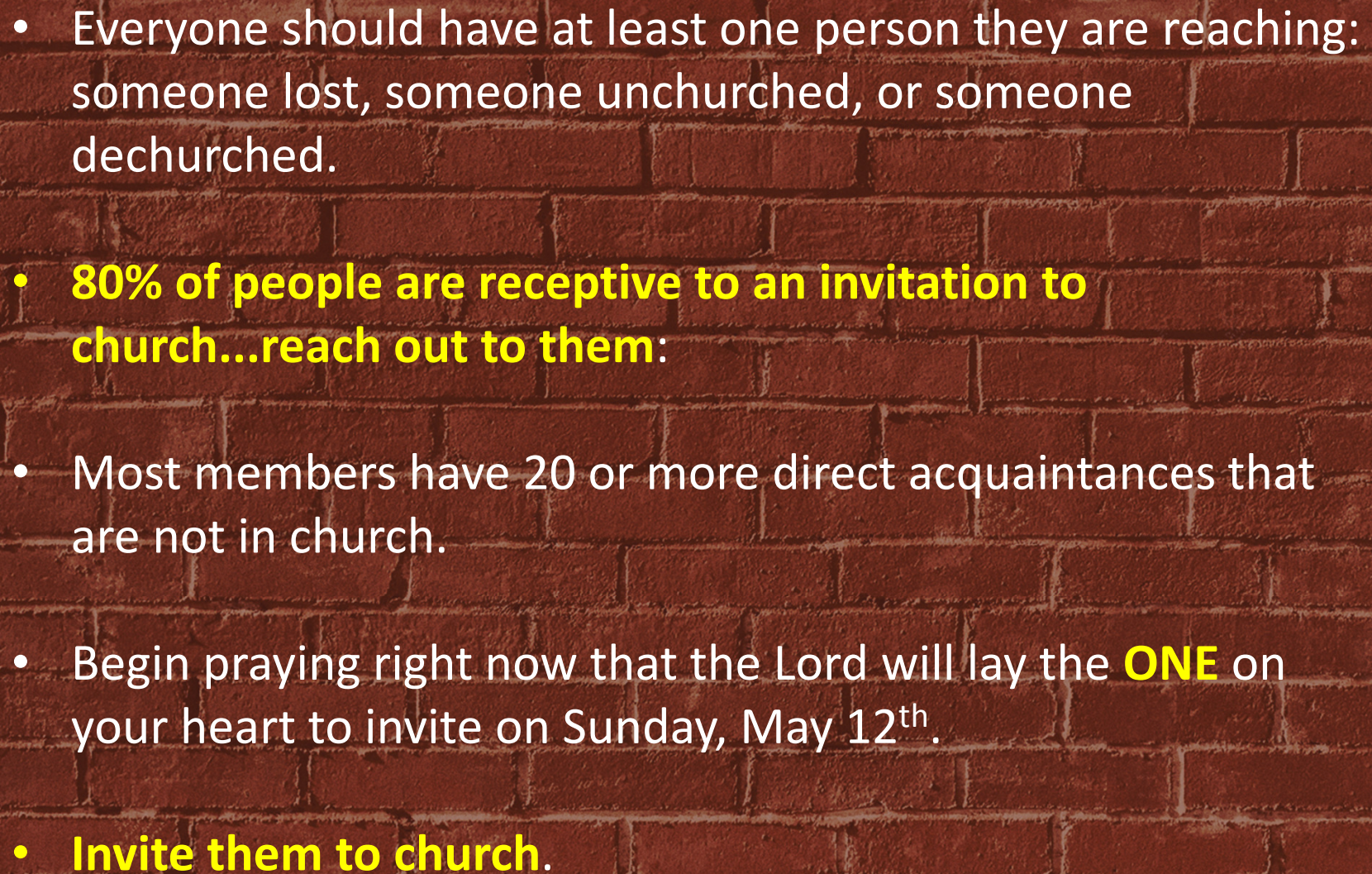
- If you care about people, then you'll be at church: "consider, promote love, exhorting one another." How? Through the church.
- Some "habitually" stay away from church, and it's not healthy.
- "Day approaching" = If we believe Christ is coming again, then it's even more critical that we be about our Father's business.
- The "first church" obeyed the Lord Jesus and He worked His work through and with them:

Mark 16:20 And **they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them**, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

## Conclusion

“Greater works” today should to be done through and in the body of Christ, i.e. – the local church...**for His Glory.**

- Church attendance is like exercise. Do it twice a year, and it hurts.
- You don't remember any one workout, but you do see the cumulative effects of working out over time.
- Same with the spiritual disciplines: prayer, reading God's Word, and being in fellowship with other believers in worship should be the regular spiritual exercise of a believer.

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- Everyone should have at least one person they are reaching: someone lost, someone unchurched, or someone dechurched.
  - **80% of people are receptive to an invitation to church...reach out to them:**
  - Most members have 20 or more direct acquaintances that are not in church.
  - Begin praying right now that the Lord will lay the **ONE** on your heart to invite on Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Invite them to church.**

- Bring them to a group setting.
- Take them out for lunch after church.
- **Who is your one? A “greater work” begins with just one.** If everyone reached one, then a great work would multiply rapidly.
- Now is the time to *Arise and Build!*

Acts 1:8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

14 **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,** with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.