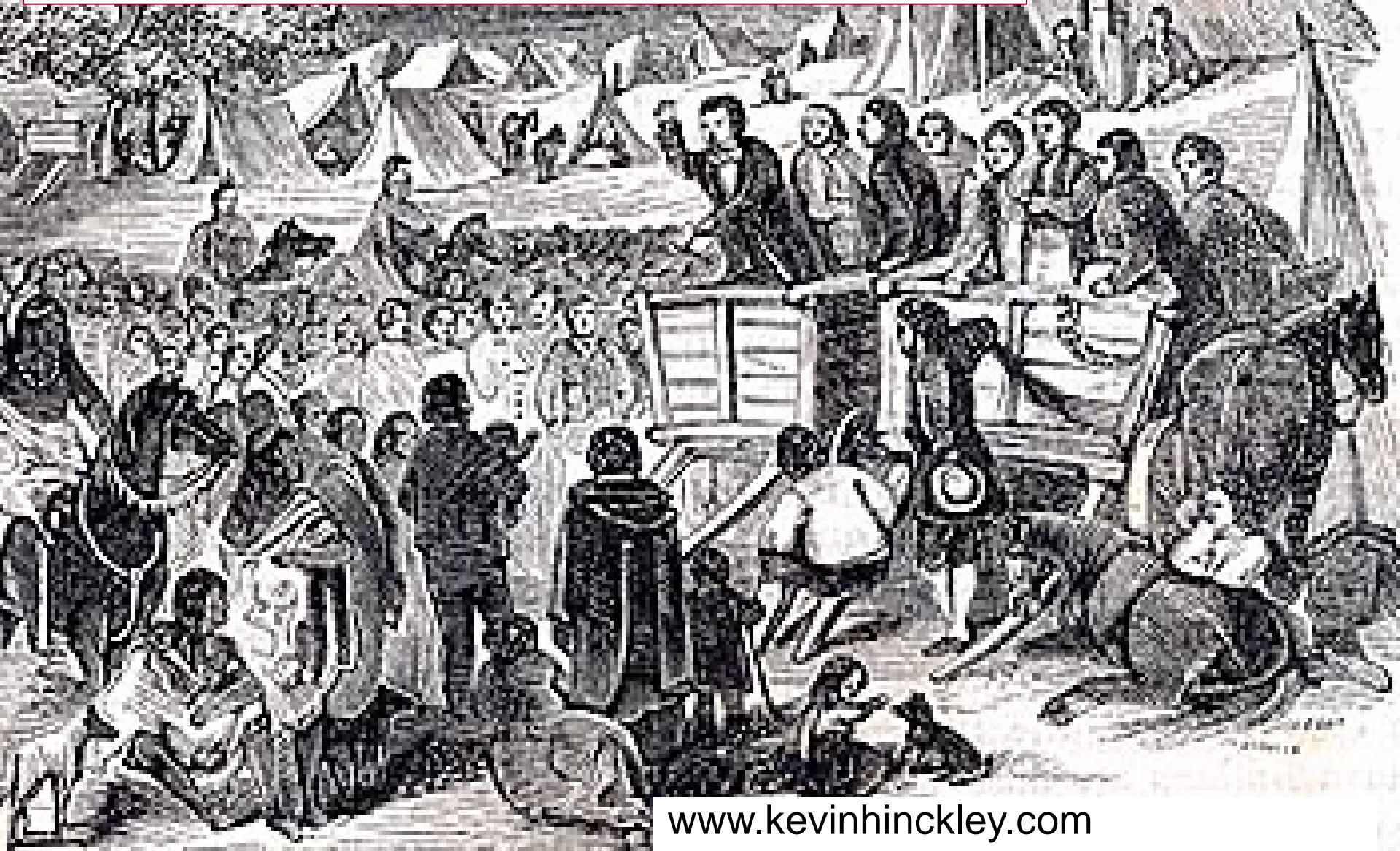


We are Witnesses



The 40 Days

A group of men, including Jesus, are sitting in a circle in a lush green field. They are dressed in traditional robes and head coverings. The scene is set outdoors with trees and bushes in the background.

Acts 1:3

St. Hugh Nibley

- "The theme of the 40 days has always been a disturbing one. For many scholars the possibility of such an event as that indicated is not even to be discussed, for others such things are tolerable only as myths, while some are frank enough to admit that they simply don't like the story. It is astonishing how many writers on the resurrection pass by the 40-day interval in studied silence...
- In short, if anything like 'The Great Forty Days' occurred, the enormous portent of it, which Luke puts at the very root of the Christian faith, quite escapes the commentators, who view it as an odd and rather 'interesting' interlude, but admit that in the end we do not know what Christ did or said during the 40 days but can only conjecture.
- "...But is it not remarkable that *nothing* has come down to us from that wonderful time when the church is supposed to have received all its knowledge and training?...Those early apocryphal writings which purport to tell the rest of the story may not be ignored by the serious student...All the 40-day teaching is described as very *secret*, delivered to a closed cult group.
- As 'the last and highest revelation,' the teaching of the 40 days was top secret, and has not come down to us. Since Irenaeus (200 AD), churchmen have strenuously denied that there ever was a secret teaching or that anything really important has ever been lost. To profess otherwise would be perilously close to an admission of bankruptcy; yet Christian scholars do concede that the Apostles had information that we do not have, allow the existence of an unwritten Apostolic tradition in the church, and grant that there was a policy of secrecy in the early church...
- Plainly things *have been lost*..."

(*Mormonism and Early Christianity*, 1987], 10-15.)

Tarry Until Empowered

Acts 1:4-8



Question



What kind of things can occur when we witness without power?

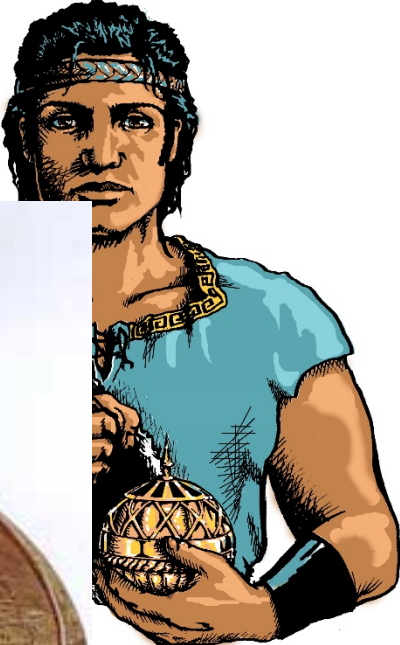
Apostolic Succession

Acts 1:12





I WANT YOU



TO THE ROD



Pentacost

Acts 2:1



Power Given

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it rested upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

'Brother George A. Smith arose and began to prophesy,' the Prophet recorded, 'when a noise was heard like the sound of a rushing mighty wind, which filled the Temple, and all the congregation simultaneously arose, being moved upon by an invisible power;

many began to speak in tongues and prophesy; others saw glorious visions; and I beheld the Temple was filled with angels, which fact I declared to the congregation.

The people of the neighborhood came running together (hearing an unusual sound within, and seeing a bright light like a pillar of fire resting upon the Temple), and were astonished at what was taking place.' (History of the Church, vol. 2, p. 428.)



Peter and John

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the ninth hour, for prayer.

And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple.

Who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked an alms.

And Peter and John, fastening their eyes upon him, said, Look on us.

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Then Peter said, **Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee**; In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. (Acts 3)



Question

Do we sometimes think we are just “blending in”; that we have very little to offer to others?

In those “silver and gold” moments, do you have something to give?

Harold B. Lee

On the west wall of the great Salt Lake Temple, underneath the center spires, is a symbolic representation of the constellation of stars known as "The Dipper" with the pointers pointing to the north star,

which was said by the architect of the temple to represent the great truth that through the priesthood of God the lost may find their way.

(Stand Ye in Holy Places, 251)

