

Spring Semester 2018 – Witnessing a Miracle – Read Acts 1:1-11

*Ac 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Dear Friends & Family of True North,

Welcome back! I pray the Winter Break went well and that you are refreshed and ready for another semester. In case you missed it, the Minnesota Vikings experienced something referred to as the “Minnesota Miracle.” Look on your computer. It’s probably easy to find. Ask someone in your dorm. I’m sure they saw it. They could tell you all about it. Young and old can retell the details. They were winning, then losing. It looked as if the season was over. And then... It’s been the cause for excitement around the Twin Cities.

More than likely you were aware of this detail. Why start with the “Minnesota Miracle”? When something like that happens, notice how easy it is for people to discuss it. It comes second nature – especially for the fans of the Vikings. As we start another semester, we’ll be continuing this year’s theme of “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” We’re going to change some things up a bit though. Instead of readings from the four Gospels, we’re going to visit the book of Acts. You’re encouraged to read a section of Scripture paired with this devotion. Why Acts? For our opening Bible Study this semester, we’re going to be digging deeper into spread of the early Christian Church among the Gentiles as recorded in Acts. Our hope is to help both our campus ministry and our congregation with the

work of evangelism – telling the account of our salvation. From an earthly standpoint, when Jesus was condemned to death and suffering on the cross, it looked as if all was lost for him. It looked as if he would have the fate of all men and women of going to a grave and remaining there. But that’s not what happened, is it? He triumphantly rose and appeared to his disciples. In the account referenced above he gathers them to himself and tells them they are going to witness this miracle. They are going to witness to the world that when all mankind seemed lost and doomed to death and eternal destruction in hell, that the Lord God had a rescue plan involving his Son who suffer and die to pay for sin and then rise from the dead to set mankind free from sin, death, and the devil. These disciples gathered on that hill as our Lord ascended would indeed be his witnesses. You and I are too.

The hope this semester is to help encourage you in your witnessing. We’ll be doing that through our Bible Study on Thursday evenings on campus and Sundays mornings at St. John’s. We’ll be applying it with some activities that are coming this semester. May the Lord bless this new semester and year!

Pastor Lindner

