

Sunday Morning Bible Study

August 20, 2017



“It is Not for You to Know the Times or the Seasons, Which the Father Hath Put in His Power.” -Acts 1:7

ACTS 1

A. **A Review** of the 40 Days Prior to the Ascension of Christ (vs. 1-11)

1. The Writer (Col. 4:14; Phile. 24) - Luke was not a disciple; probably one of the 120 (vs. 15); written approx. 58-59 A.D.
2. The Dedication - “*O Theophilus*” same as Lk. 1:3; lit. friend of God - represents the saints
3. The Anticipation of the Holy Ghost (vs. 5-8)
4. The Two Men in White Apparel (vs. 9-11); **Who were they? Where else have we read of them in scripture?** Jn. 20:12

B. **The Setting** (vs. 12-15)

1. The Return from Mt. Olivet (Mt. of Olives) where Jesus spent much of His time
2. “Only” 120 (vs. 15) - many had left following Christ (Jn. 6:66); 12 x 10 = 120 picture of the remnant

C. **Choosing the Replacement** (vs. 16-26; Ps. 109:8)

1. Judas Iscariot - Matt. 27:3-10; Lk.22:3; Ps. 69:25; regret for betraying Christ, not like repentance unto salvation (Lk. 18:13)
2. Mathias - only time name is mentioned (vs. 23, 26)

ACTS 2

A. **The Day of Pentecost** - 50 days after the Passover (Lev. 23:15-16), which also was the day prior to the Crucifixion (Lk. 22:1,7); approx. 7 days after the Ascension

1. The Four Signs (vs. 2, 3, 4, 7) - Ezek. 37:9 **Who determined this power?** vs. 4b
2. “*How do we hear every man in our own tongue?*” (vs. 8) - I Cor. 14:33; Prov. 20:12

B. **Peter and the Eleven** - standing up to the crowd, both those in doubt and in mocking (vs. 12-36)

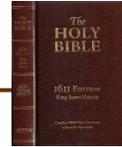
1. Using Scripture to Teach - Joel 2:30; Ps. 16:8-11; Ps. 132:11; Ps. 68:18; **remember that the NT was not completed yet; how important is the study of the OT? Why do so many pastors today primarily focus on the NT?**
2. Teaching the Counsel of God (vs. 23) - What does this mean? Lk. 22:22; Eph. 1:11-12; Is. 46:9-11; Prov. 19:20-21 **How is this different than what the modern church portrays God’s counsel to be?**

C. **The Effect of the Gospel** on Those Whom the Lord Calls (vs. 37-47)

1. “*...they were pricked (cut) in their heart*” - vs. 37; also known as “*circumcision of the heart*” (Ro. 2:29) - can only be by God’s grace
2. “*...and fear came upon every soul*” - vs. 43; necessary fear because it “*is the beginning of wisdom*” (Prov. 9:10)
3. “*singleness of heart*” - vs. 47 - with the true gospel, there is no division (Acts 4:32)
4. “*and the Lord added to the church as should be saved*” - vs. 48; God’s predetermined counsel (Acts 4:28; Is. 46:9-10)



The ACTS of the Apostles



AT THE GATE OF THE TEMPLE

“He Leaping Up, Stood and Walked and Entered with Them into the Temple, Walking and Leaping and Praising God.” - Acts

ACTS 3

A. The Beautiful Gate (vs. 1-10)

1. The Hour of Prayer - **Where did this hour originate?**

There were three stated hours for prayer among the Jews: the third hour (9:00AM), when they offered the morning sacrifice, the 6th hour and the ninth hour when they offered the evening sacrifice (Num. 28:2-4).
Ps. 55:16-18; Dan. 6:10; Mk. 15:25, 33-34; Acts 10:3, 30

2. The Name - **Why was the gate called “Beautiful”?**

G5611 *“boubios”*; only used 4x in the Bible; belonging to the right hour/season; timely, beautiful; same word used in Ro. 10:15 and also used in contrast to the beautiful in Matt. 23:27; beautiful description of the moment of salvation.

3. The Response

a. ...from the Lame Man - **How long had he been lame?** (vs. 2; Acts 4:22) **To what does this correspond?** (Ps. 51:5; 58:3) **How did the reaction of the lame man** (vs. 8-9) **differ from the response of others healed miraculously?** (Lk 17:11-19) **What’s the difference?** He’s not just healed physically, but spiritually (II Cor. 6:2); that’s why he’s praising God and not man.

b. ...from the Witnesses - (vs. 10); filled with wonder (G2285 *“Thambos” - dumbfound*; frequently associated with terror as well as astonishment) and amazement - lit. amazement and ecstasy, both with elements of fear (Acts 2:43; Lk. 4:36; Lk. 5:9); **What is the significance of “fear”?** Ps. 111:10; Prov. 9:10

4. The Right Hand - (vs. 7) **Why are we given the information of which hand it was?** Matt. 25:33, 41

B. The Porch Called Solomon (vs. 11-26)

1. Peter Deflects Personal Glory - vs. 12; **Why is this so important to know?** (Is. 48:11; Acts 12:43)

2. Peter’s Answer to the People

a. Identifies Jesus as the Son of God - vs. 13-15; *“the Prince (lit. Author) of life”* - Acts 5:31; Heb. 12:2

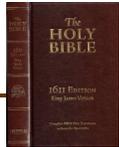
b. Identifies the Faith that Saves - vs. 16; *“the faith which is by Him”* - Gal. 2:16, 20-21; **How does this contrast “Christian” teaching concerning faith today?** - we must conjure up our own faith to believe in God

c. Identifies their Ignorance - vs. 17-26; *“through ignorance (G52 “Agnoia” - from not to know) ye did it”* i.e. spiritual blindness- **How is this different than the ignorance of Acts 4:13?** (see Acts 4 Study) Yet, they should have known through all the prophets (vs. 24)

3. Evidence or Requirement of Salvation? - *“Repent... and be converted”* - **How can vs. 19 be taken “Arminian”?**

(Jacob Arminius: if you act, then God will respond) **Isn’t this Arminian teaching found in almost every Christian institution today? How do we respond to this teaching?**

- The old covenant of the law has requirements, cursed is everyone that continues to do them (Gal. 3:10); the new covenant through God’s grace alone, gives the evidence of salvation; if God has called and given the faith of Christ (Gal. 3:21-23) that saves, then one is also given the gift of repentance (Acts 5:31; 11:18; Ro. 2:4; II Tim. 2:25) and then will be converted (G1994 *“Epistrepho” - to revert; turn (180 degrees)* - Mk. 4:12; Lk. 22:31-32; Jn. 12:37-40)



The ACTS of the Apostles

PETER AND JOHN IN CUSTODY



“(The high priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees) laid hands on them and put them in hold unto the next day.”

ACTS 4

A. Interaction with the Sadducees (vs. 1-3, 5-6, 13-21)

1. Who were they? What was their doctrine? Why would this sect be mentioned in the Bible several times?

-the upper crust Jews, the higher class of Pharisees; aristocrats, very conservative, more interested in maintaining the status quo, not interested in change because everything is good as it is.

How did one become a Sadducee? - They were born into it (Acts 4:6), much like the culture of any religion

- They held only to the written law, the 10 commandments and the Levitical laws; rejected the traditions of the Pharisees
- They denied the resurrection of the body, personal immortality and retribution a future life; according to Josephus (historian of the early church) Sadducees believed that the soul died with the body, taking away the belief of the punishment in the soul in Hades (Matt. 22:23; Mk. 12:8; Acts 4:1); denied the existence of angels and spirits (Acts 23:8)
- They held to total freedom of the will - God is not involved at all; take away fate, all actions are within our own power, so that we are ourselves the causes of what is good and receive what is evil from our own following

-This was the beginning of the free will movement. Their origin began 500 BC and died out 70 AD (the destruction of Jerusalem). There is no record of a Sadducee every being admitted in a Christian church.

2. Are there “Sadducees” in the church today? - their doctrine of man’s free will has never left the church

“For what godliness could remain, when as the immortality of the soul was counted as a fable, and that freely? But once suffered pure doctrine to fall to the ground amongst them. Wherefore, we must so much the more diligently beware of every wicked turning aside, lest such a step do follow immediately.” - John Calvin on the doctrine of the Sadducees

B. Peter and John

- Perceived as “*unlearned and ignorant men*” (vs. 12-13) **What does this mean?** - They were not taught by man
Unlearned (“*Grammatoi*” G62) - unacquainted with rabbinical book learning. Ignorant (“*Idiota*” G2399) - signifies layman in contrast with religious officials. The apostles were accused of not having that learning gained by mingling with people who have important affairs to transact. The Greeks felt one’s highest education consisted in public life.
- Their Education - **How were the apostles taught?** (Acts 4:13) **How is a child of God taught?** (Jn. 6:45; Is. 54:13; Ezek. 34:11-16; 36:21-32) **Why is this so significant?** To be taught of God begins with reading the word (not the writings of man), with a Bible not polluted by man’s translations. This desire to read/study His word is also a gift from God’s grace. (Gal. 1:9-12)
- Their Boldness - Acts 4:8-12, 9-22, 31-32; **How does this contrast from the Peter who denied Christ three times? From where did this boldness come?** (Lk.12:11-12; Lk. 24:45; Prov. 28:1; II Tim . 2: 24-26)
- The Prayer - Acts 4:23-31; *“For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done”* (vs. 28) **What is meant by God’s counsel?** (Is. 46:10; Ps. 33:11; Ro. 8:28)

C. The Multitude of Them that Believed - Who were they? What was the evidence that they really believed?

- They were of one heart and of one soul - (vs. 32) This is mentioned several times in Acts. **Why are we told this?** - there is one true gospel (one accord), therefore it is not possible to have different religions and different views about the gospel. God’s “*great grace*” (vs. 33) is given to all of those who are of one heart, one soul and one accord to make it possible to believe.
- Had all things common, neither was there any that lacked (vs. 32-34) - Benevolence shared by those who have more (vs. 34) will give to those in that one accord who have need (Acts 4:35; 2:45). “*All things in common*” does not mean the same financially or communal living, rather pull your own weight and help those who are in need (Acts 20:33-34; 18:3; II Cor. 12:14; II Thes. 3:7-10)