

Acts 1-5

Ch 1

Theme – Intro by Luke (overlap/ transition with Lk 24:50-53); the Lord commands the Apostles to wait for the promise of the Father (echo of Lk 24:49, revealed to be the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:33); charge to be the Lord’s witnesses & promise of equipping (Holy Spirit will come upon you- Epi); outline of Acts in v8 (witnesses to Jerusalem [ch 1-7], Judea & Samaria [ch 8-12], to the ends of the earth [ch13-28]); the Ascension of the Lord Jesus from the Mt. of Olives (Mt. Olivet) & the promise He will return in the same way that He ascended; Apostles return to Jerusalem & gather with the disciples of Jesus in the upper room (120 persons); Peter addresses the group & relates the need to replace Judas Iscariot who betrayed the Lord & abandoned his office; Peter quotes Scripture (showing that Scripture is the standard for direction even before the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is received); pray & commit the decision to the Lord; Matthias is chosen by lot

Ch 2

Theme – Day of Pentecost (50th day from the Feast of First Fruits/ Resurrection Sunday- Lev 23:15-16); Baptism of the Holy Spirit (birth of the Early Church); Early Church began declaring the mighty deeds of God in a multitude of languages; pilgrims in Jerusalem for Pentecost bewildered when they hear Galileans (i.e. “uneducated people”) speaking in all these different languages (Acts 4:13- Been w/ Jesus); Peter’s Sermon on Pentecost; Peter explains the sign of tongues by quoting Joel 2:28-32 (Peter quoting Scripture before & after the Baptism of the Holy Spirit shows the priority of Scripture); Jewish leaders & people crucified the Lord Jesus who God confirmed to be the Messiah through miracles & signs; despite their rejection, God raised the Lord Jesus up from the dead (impossible for Him to be held by its power!- v24); Peter appeals to King David by quoting Ps 16:8-11, Ps 89:3-4, Ps 49:9, Ps 110:1; King David, being a prophet (v30) and knowing that he, himself, was a mortal man, prophesied that the promised Messiah was greater than any mere man & called his descendent his Lord; people heartbroken to hear what they have done

& ask what to do; repent & be baptized, for this promise is for you & all people (God has not given up on you yet!); 3,000 people saved; 4 pillars of the Early Church (Doctrine, Fellowship; Communion, Prayer); intense fellowship (Koinonia) & sacrificial affection in the Early Church; the Lord added to the church

Ch 3

Theme – Peter & John encounter the lame man at the Gate Beautiful; “neither silver nor gold do I have, but what I do have I give to you”- v6; healing of the lame man; people amazed by the healing since the formerly lame man was well known; Peter’s sermon at Solomon’s Porch; “why look at us like we healed this man?”; The Lord Jesus “you” rejected is the One who healed this man; what the people did in ignorance, God used to fulfill His word; therefore, because now you are no long ignorant, repent & return to the Lord so that your sins may be wiped away (v19); the Lord Jesus was foretold by Moses & the prophets; Gospel comes first to the Jews; Peter quotes Gen 22:18, which the Lord says to Abraham after Abraham was willing to offer Isaac on the altar (note, God the Father did not spare His Son on the altar)

Ch 4

Theme – While preaching, Peter & John arrested by Temple guard; additional 5,000 saved after Peter preached; Peter & John on trial before the Sanhedrin; Sanhedrin demands they reveal the source of their authority (same as when they challenged the Lord Jesus: Jn 2:18, Matt 21:23); Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit (one Baptism, can be refilled again & again); the name of the Lord Jesus, whom you crucified (3rd mention so far in Acts), is the authority that healed this man; Ps 118:22- Stone the builders rejected; “There is no other name under heaven... by which we must be saved!”- v12; uneducated & untrained, but had been with Jesus (v13); Sanhedrin deliberates in private; Sanhedrin faced with quandary since they cannot deny a miracle took place; Sanhedrin tries to bully Peter & John into silence; WE MUST OBEY GOD!- v20 (similar to the choice of Joshua in Josh 24:15- choose who you will serve, but as for me & my house, we will serve the Lord!); Sanhedrin again threatens Peter & John, but pointless since news of the miracle has spread; Apostles pray for boldness; building shakes & Apostles refilled with the Holy Spirit as God the Father immediately answers; description of the fellowship & agape love in the Early Church; Apostles testifying of the Lord Jesus with power; Barnabas- Son of Encouragement

Ch 5

Theme – Ananias & Sapphira misrepresent the offering they contributed to the Early Church; “you have not lied to men, but to God”- v4 (can fool most men some of the time, but can fool God none of the time); Ananias falls down dead (proximity to the revelation affects the swiftness & severity of the consequences); Sapphira lies as well & falls down dead; great fear fell upon the whole church; extrapolation of Acts 4:33 (Apostles testify with power); some respectfully distance themselves, others embrace the Gospel; everyone respects what’s happening as extraordinary miracles take place through Peter (like through Paul in Acts 19:11-12); Apostles arrested by High Priest (due to jealousy, “heat,” similar to Matt 27:18, but different Greek word); angel frees the Apostles from prison & they are commanded to preach in the Temple; confusion the next morning when Sanhedrin cant find the Apostles (means the High Priest didn’t go to the Temple

that morning); Temple guards “request the pleasure of the Apostles' company” because they’re scared of the crowds; “We told you we had to obey God” (v29, Acts 4:19); High Priest tries to distance himself from the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus, but Peter doesn’t let him/ them; Apostles & the Holy Spirit both testify that forgiveness of sins is only possible through the Lord Jesus; when Gamaliel (Paul’s rabbi) sees that the priests intended to kill the Apostles, he warns them in private to be cautious, lest they be found to be fighting against God (v33, 35, 39); Sanhedrin has Apostles flogged and sternly warned to stop; Apostles rejoice that they have been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name (Phil 3:10- fellowship of His sufferings; Apostles “kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ” everywhere- v42
