

# Book of Acts - Lesson 3

Chapter 3:1 - 4:22

Last week Mike made note of a Prescriptive Observation in Acts 2:38. A similar verse is found in Chapter 3. What is that verse? What is the command?

# Prescriptive?

- ▶ Acts 2:38

Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- ▶ Acts 3:19

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;”

## Acts 2:38

- ▶ Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: ...
- ▶ Acts 2:36 ”Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”
- ▶ Peter is talking to those in Isreal (the Jews), specifically who hadn't yet come to Christ. He is calling them to repent and be baptized.

To quote an email I received from Dr. Mike this week:

“The point being that, just because a command or instruction is given in the narrative, it is not necessarily a command to us today. It may be true. It may be applicable. But, in the context, it is not directed to modern-day people or the church or Christians.”

# Acts 3:19

- ▶ Acts 3:12 “And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel ...”
- ▶ Acts 3:13 “The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, ...”
- ▶ Acts 3:18 “But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets...”
  
- ▶ Peter is appealing to them as Israelites to repent and return.

## How does this chapter begin? What was the event?

- ▶ Peter and John to the temple during prayer time.
- ▶ A lame man begs for alms (money).
- ▶ Peter tell the man to get up and walk.
- ▶ The mans was walking and leaping and praising God.
- ▶ The people who saw him were filled with wonder and amazement.

## What happened because of this healing?

- ▶ People gathered around the man who was with Peter and John.
- ▶ They were amazed / astounded.

Peter responds with, “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?”

How did Peter say the man was able to walk?

► Faith through Jesus

Peter took opportunity with the crowd gathered to witness about Jesus again. What are some of the highlights that he pointed out?

- ▶ God glorified His servant
- ▶ They denied the Righteous One.
- ▶ They put to death the Author of Life.
- ▶ God raised Him from the dead.
- ▶ Peter and the other apostles were witnesses.
- ▶ God foretold what would happen in the prophets.
- ▶ Peter called the people repent.

There are similarities in this message with the message that Peter gave at Pentecost. What are the key points about Jesus that he brings up again?

- ▶ Jesus was crucified
- ▶ Buried
- ▶ God raised him according to the prophets
- ▶ He was exalted at the right hand of God

## What happens as Peter's message continues into Chapter 4?

- ▶ Peter and John arrested and put in jail.
  - The Sadducees didn't believe in resurrection.
- ▶ But many of those who heard the message believed. The number of men came to be about 5,000.

## What happens on the next day?

- ▶ The leaders gathered and brought Peter and John before them.
- ▶ They asked, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"
- ▶ Then he repeated the main points of all the witnessing in Acts 2 and 3, that they crucified Jesus and God raised Him from the dead.

# Bonus Topic

- ▶ Think of the Book of Acts as a continuation of The Gospel of Luke written to the same recipient, Theophilus.
- ▶ Luke 12:11-12 Jesus says,
- ▶ “And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

**Acts 4:5-12**

► So here we are now in Acts 4:5-9

On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” **Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them,** “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ...

- Jesus told His disciples this was going to happen, but I will teach you what to say.

Verse 4:12 “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

- ▶ Note the “narrowness” or “exclusivity” of the salvation message.
- ▶ Does this create conflict with the world we live in today?

What was the result of Peter's witness in these verses?

- ▶ The leaders were amazed & astonished at Peter's and John's confidence & boldness because they were uneducated and untrained.
- ▶ They had nothing to say in opposition.
- ▶ They called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

Based on the context of Acts 2 and 3, what showed Peter's and John's boldness?

- ▶ They had been with Jesus and they were empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ They did not fear the people or the leaders.

# Bonus Question

- ▶ Question: After Pentecost, isn't the Holy Spirit indwelling in those who accept Christ as their Savior? How is it in Acts 4:8 the Spirit is filling Peter? Should he already be?

She sited two verses:

- ▶ Acts 2:4 “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- ▶ Acts 4:8 “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders,”

## Filling with the Holy Spirit.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be energized and controlled by the third person of the Godhead in such a way that under the acknowledged lordship of Jesus Christ the full presence and power of God are experienced.

# Filling with the Holy Spirit verses

- ▶ Luke 1:15, 1:41, 1:67 (these concern the birth of Jesus)
- ▶ Acts 2:4, 4:8, 4:31, 6:3, 6:5, 7:55, 9:17, 10:44, 13:9, 13:52
  - ▶ It's only mentioned in 7 of the 28 chapters and not at all in the second half of the book.
- ▶ Ephesians 5:18

# The Spirit's Indwelling

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is one of the gifts of salvation by which God's very presence, in the person of the Spirit, indwells the church corporately and Christians individually, drawing them into the life of the triune God.

# Key Indwelling verses

## ► Rom 8:9-11

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

## ► Gal 5:22-24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

# Being Filled with the Spirit

- ▶ Sin and rebellion against God's will hinder us from being filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ When we sin, we should confess our transgressions to God as soon as possible.
- ▶ We can be filled with the Holy Spirit daily by yielding our will to God in submission and obedience to His Word.

- ▶ Led by the Spirit
  - ▶ Romans 8:14, Galatians 5:18
- ▶ Walk in the Spirit
  - ▶ Galatians 5:16
- ▶ Live by the Spirit
  - ▶ Galatians 5:18
- ▶ Unity of the Spirit
  - ▶ Galatians 4:3
- ▶ Renewed in the Spirit
  - ▶ Ephesians 4:23
- ▶ Sanctification by the Spirit
  - ▶ 2 Thessalonians 2:13

- ▶ Resist the Spirit
  - ▶ Acts 7:51
- ▶ Grieve the Spirit
  - ▶ Ephesians 4:30
- ▶ Quench the Spirit
  - ▶ 1 Thessalonians 5:19

## What was the leaders' response to the actions of Peter and John?

- ▶ The leaders commanded them not to speak any more in Jesus' name.
- ▶ Peter and John said they couldn't stop speaking of what they had seen and heard.
- ▶ They let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.

Relate the witness of Peter and John here in Acts 4:13-22 with Acts 1:8.

► Acts 1:8

“but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

► The confidence and boldness is from the Holy Spirit.