

ACTS

God's Spirit, Moving In God's People, For God's Purposes

I. In session two we covered:

Introduction: The Constitution of the Christian Mission (1:1-2:41)

- Luke-Acts Resumes (1:1-5)
- The Mandate to Witness (1:6-8)
- The Ascension (1:9-11)
- The Full Complement of Apostles (1:12-26)
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit (2:1-41)

II. Session Three overview:

Part I. The Christian Mission to the Jewish World (2:42-12:24)

Panel 1: *The Earliest Days of the Church at Jerusalem (2:42-6:7)*

- A Thesis Paragraph on the State of the Early Church (2:42-47)
- A Crippled Beggar Healed (3:1-26)
- Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin (4:1-31)
- Christian Concern Expressed in Sharing (4:32-5:11)
- The Apostles Again Before the Sanhedrin (5:12-42)

III. Part I. The Christian Mission to the Jewish World (2:42-12:24)

Panel 1 – *The Earliest Days of the Church at Jerusalem (2:42-6:7)*

A. A Thesis Paragraph on the State of the Early Church (2:42-47)

1. **2:42:** *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”*
 - a) “Four marks of the church”: teaching, fellowship, worship, prayer
 - b) they didn't just do them, they where **devoted** and **committed**
2. Spirits impact:
 - (1) signs and wonders (vs 43) accompanied the preaching
 - (a) Miracles drew people to the gospel message and validated authoritative words spoken.
 - (2) supernatural unity and generosity (vs 45)
 - (a) common vision and purpose
 - (b) new view of their possessions - no longer wanted to amass personal wealth but to use what the Lord gave them to advance the kingdom

(c) Read Arnold pg 22 (Reflections: fellowship and spending)

(3) joyful communion (vs. 46)

(4) praise & favor of those in Jerusalem (vs 47)

(5) conversions (vs 47)

B. A Crippled Beggar Healed (3:1-26)

1. Peter & John heal a lame beggar (3:1-10)

a) going “up” to the temple & Beautiful Gate (see temple handout)

(1) Josephus - Titus Flavius Josephus -

(a) first-century Romano-Jewish scholar & historian

(b) born in Jerusalem

(c) Fought against the Romans in the First Jewish–Roman War (66-70AD)

i) Surrendered, at Jotapata (67 CE), to Roman forces (Gen. Vespasian)

(d) Vespasian kept Josephus as a slave and presumably interpreter.

(e) Vespasian became Emperor in 69 CE, he granted Josephus his freedom, at which time Josephus assumed the emperor's family name of Flavius. Flavius Josephus fully defected to the Roman side and was granted Roman citizenship.

(f) Josephus recorded “Jewish History”, with special emphasis on the first century CE and the First Jewish–Roman War (66-70 CE)

b) In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (vs. 3:6)

(1) **Acts 3:6** - *“But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”*

(2) It is not Peter who heals but he evokes the name of Jesus (His will and authority)

2. Peters Sermon at the temple (3:11-26)

a) Peter saw that they where “astounded”. An opportunity to preach the Gospel (vs 11-12)

b) vs 12 - healing is not by their power or piety

(1) **Acts 3:12** - *“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?”*

c) they are guilty of rejecting Jesus’ (vs 13-15)

d) Peter & John are “witnesses” (2 are required in Jewish tradition) to the resurrection (vs 15)

e) It is Jesus who healed the man (vs 16)

(1) *“...by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know...”*

f) Prophets foretold Jesus’ the messiah (vs 17-18)

g) Repent of sin & turn to God (vs. 19)

(1) vs 19 - future times of refreshing when Jesus returns & the Kingdom of God established

h) All the earth blessed by Israel's offspring Jesus (vs 21-26)

C. Peter and John Before the Sanhedrin (4:1-31)

1. arrested & jailed over night (4:3)
2. The number of believing men grew to 5,000 (4:4) (addition of 2,000?)
3. Peter *"filled with the Holy Spirit"* (4:8)
 - a) **4:13** - *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.*
 - b) **4:16** - the healing of the 40 year old cripple bigger was a notable sign that they could not deny
4. **4:23-31**: Released, reported back, and prayer
 - a) A prayer for boldness not relief from trials and opposition
 - b) God's approval = the place was shaken

D. Christian Concern Expressed in Sharing (4:32-5:11)

1. Holy Spirit is moving powerfully and shaping the church: unity, generosity, bold witness
 - a) the needs of believers - supernatural unity
 - b) 47-49 AD = famine in Israel
 - (1) Paul takes up collections (Acts 11:28-30; 12:25; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9; Rom. 15:25-27)
2. Contrast between Joseph (ie Barnabas 4:36-37) and Ananias & Sapphira
 - a) Ananias (Heb.) - "God is merciful"
 - (1) Ananias kept back what he represents to the Apostles as devoted to the Lord and lies not only to the leaders but the Holy Spirit
 - (2) Satan filled his heart (5:3) - enticement
 - b) Barnabas inspired by the Spirit vs. Ananias influenced by Satan (5:3)

E. The Apostles Again Before the Sanhedrin (5:12-42)

1. 5:12-16 Signs and wonders (Peter's shadow)
2. 5:17-18 - apostles arrested
3. 5:19 angel of the Lord frees the apostles
4. 5:20 *"Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."*
5. 5:27-32 apostles address the council
 - a) vs 28 - don't speak or teach in Jesus' name
 - b) vs 29 - apostles will obey God not man
 - c) vs 30 - Jesus raised by God

- d) vs 30 - you are guilty of sin and opposition (ie killed him)
 - e) vs. 31 - God exalted him - right hand - Leader and Savior
 - f) vs 31 - repentance of sin
 - g) vs 32 - apostles are the witnesses & so is the Holy Spirit
6. 5:33-40 Gamaliel addresses the situation
 7. 5:40 - apostles released and flogged
 8. 5:41 - rejoicing