

Acts 2 –26 April 2020

“The Church In Action”

Introduction

Jesus has risen from the dead and ascended to be seated at the right-hand of the Father.

But it's not time for the kingdom of God to come to earth yet. Jesus revealed a mystery to them in Act chap 1.

There will be this “Age of the Church” where God pours His attention toward THE WHOLE WORLD.

Starting with the empowering of His apostles by the giving of the Holy Spirit.

The beginning of the church & giving of the HS is a wonderful example for ALL the activity of the church.

People often look at 1700s or Reformation or Church Fathers for example of what the Church should be

What does the true Church look like? Look no further than Act chapter 2

So tonight, we see the 4-step cycle of the true Church in action

1st Step of the true Church in action – God Giving Gracious Gifts (Chap 2:1-11)

Read Vs 1-4

1. God's gift of the Holy Spirit to them
2. Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem for this, so they would be empowered to be witnesses for Him
3. The Church in action always starts b/c of God's action.
 - a. We have nothing to offer save what God has offered to us.
 - b. We only have purpose to the extent that God has gifted us to go use these gifts.
4. The specific gift of the HS to us is the proof that our names are eternally sealed in heaven.
 - a. Read Eph 1:12-14

Read Vs 5-11

1. Part of the manifestation of the Spirit to them was speaking in a foreign earthly language.
2. This should give us the indication that God's gifts to us are not for us, they're to serve others.
 - a. Others heard them speaking "the wonderful works of God".
3. The people marvel b/c they were Galileans.
 - a. They were known to not talk as cultured.
 - b. God often gifts us in ways that stand out that it's not our natural ability, but God in us!
4. Gift of tongues
 - a. This is speaking in other earthly languages
 - b. There is a gift of tongues spoken of latter in I Cor 12 & 14
 - c. For just back then?
 - i. No doubt God did special things for Apostles while setting up Church & writing the NT.
 - ii. Also, no doubt that God can still us these things today.

2nd Step of the true Church in action – Explaining God's Grace (Chap 2:12-21)

Read Vs 12-16

1. Don't overlook the simplicity of explaining God's Word simply.
2. When learning or giving out God's Word, get the Milk, Meat & Manna
 - a. Milk – The face-value of the text
 - b. Meat – The deep trues that correlate to other larger biblical truths
 - c. Manna – Fresh application of the meaning to your life.
3. We make the mistake of assuming that everyone can understand the plain face-value understanding of the scripture as we do.
 - a. But the natural man cannot understand the things of Spirit, they're spiritually discerned.
 - b. Turn to Act 8:29-31
 - c. World needs HS to know God, maybe thru YOU.

Read Vs 17-21

1. Peter quotes the prophecy of Joel 2.
2. Remember, for 2000 yrs God has worked thru a nation, raising up individual prophets.
3. Peter is bringing to light the mystery that's always been there in the OT. (Mystery of the Church)
 - a. Vs 17 – God's Spirit to be given to ALL.
 - b. Vs 21 – ALL people can be gifted w/ HS b4 the Lord's return to judge & establish Kingdom
4. So Peter starts by just explaining the face-value
 - a. God's grace and gifts of foreign tongues and wisdom was prophesied to be given to all who believe.
5. Notice Peter using the Word of God to explain the move of the Spirit, enhanced the moment.
 - a. The Word & the Spirit never fight against
 - b. They work together

3rd Step of the true Church in action – Applying God's Grace (Chap 2:22-36)

Intro

1. God's gifts have been poured out
2. They've been scripturally explained
3. But how does it apply to you?
4. Peter's going to take the outpouring of the Spirit and related it to the hearers and seers.

Read Vs 22-24

1. Vs 22 – You saw how Jesus lived & proved Himself (**He was perfect**)
2. Vs 23 – Although God fore-ordained that this would happen, they willfully chose to be enemies. (**You killed Him**)
3. Vs 24 – Death has no lawful right to Him (**God raised Him from the dead**)
4. Now Peter will support the resurrection w/ OT.

Read Vs 25-33

1. So Peter quotes and applies Psm 16 to Jesus, that it can't be about David himself.
 - a. Quote is vs 25-28
 - b. Application to Jesus is vs 29-32
2. Application always has a “therefore”
 - a. Vs 33 – BECAUSE Jesus is raised from the dead, He has sent us the Holy Spirit
 - b. We have this power BECAUSE of Jesus!!
3. Peter's not done, he's gonna quote David again

Read Vs 34-36

1. So Peter quotes and applies Psm 110 to Jesus
 - a. Quote is vs 34-35
 - b. Application to Jesus in vs 36
2. Both Lord and Christ
 - a. Lord above David
 - b. Christ the descendant of David
 - c. Jesus used this to stump them in Matt 22:43

4th Step of the true Church in action – Responding to God's Grace (Chap 2:37-47)

Read Vs 37-41

1. Pricked in heart, conviction & they responded.
2. Application is how does it apply to you
 - a. Responding is the action of applying it
3. Repent is to change away from what is wrong and turn to and start doing what is right.
4. Notice what is was that the people responded to
 - a. Vs 41 – They responded to the Word
 - b. The Word of Jesus' resurrection & HS gift

This is all happening on The Feast of Pentecost

1. Known as Fest of Weeks or Ingathering.
2. 3-fold purpose of this Feast of "50 days".
 - a. To commemorate – giving of the Law
 - b. To celebrate – The Wheat Harvest
 - c. Fulfilled by God Himself – Giving of HS
 - d. Lord descended upon mountain like fire
 - e. 3,000 killed verses 3,000 saved.

Read Vs 42-47

1. This is just what the church should look like.
2. Notice that they responded to God with their whole life, it wasn't just some event.
 - a. It was continual - Vs 42 – “continued stedfastly”, Vs 46 & 47 – “Daily”
 - b. It's was mutual - “Every soul”, “All”, “one accord”
 - c. It was whole commitment – “had all in common”, “gave as others had need”
3. The active motions and the passive motions
 - a. Active
 - i. 4 things Vs 42
 - ii. Praising God from vs 47
 - b. Passive
 - i. Fear and reverence for God
 - ii. Loved and continually help each other
 - c. There's one more motion
 - i. God added to the church as He saw fit.

Conclusion

Today the beginning of the true Church. What does the action of the true Church look like?

1. **God Gives Gracious Gifts**

- a. We have nothing to offer the world except what God has gifted to us.
- b. And that's no small thing, it's eternal life!

2. **Explaining of God's Gifts**

- a. Don't miss simply teaching God's Word simply
- b. Some can be so heady that they miss giving the simple life-sustaining milk of the Word to the babes in Christ that need it,

3. **Applying of God's Gifts**

- a. How does teaching of Bible relate to me?
- b. How should I be enabled or persuaded?

4. **Responding to God's Gifts**

- a. You can know how to apply God's truth but never repent and do it. Choose life!!
- b. Choose life and watch God do a work!