



The Park Church: Corporate Bible Study

BIBLE JOURNEY: THE BOOK OF ACTS

LESSON 2: A GOSPEL FOR JEWS & THEN GENTILES

LESSON 3: THE GOSPEL & RESTORATION

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Reflection: Looking Back Moving Forward

Looking back:

- ▶ **The Acts of the Apostles is centered around “The Great Commission to spread the Gospel unto all nations”.**
- It chronicles for us what operating in and through the Spirit of God looks like
- The book takes us on a missionary journey through the then known world as the Apostles take the Gospel to all nations. First to the Jews scattered aboard then to the Gentiles as well

Moving Forward:

- ▶ **Taking it to the streets:**
- Signs and Wonders will follow them that believe
- More hands needed for the work
- Opposition releases power
- The Gospel of Restoration



For Studio P ONLY:

Getting Started Introduction video

LESSON 2

IN | A GOSPEL FOR JEWS & THEN GENTILES [BONUS]

Signs and Wonders

Acts 3

The Church is where healing can occur.

A man who was lame from birth was taken to the temple gate daily so that he could solicit alms from those going to church

Upon seeing Peter and John the man did what he knew to do: ask for money

In response Peter and John did what they had been empowered to do: “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk”.

Peter then took his hand, helped him up and strength was restored to the man's feet and ankles.

Then a praise broke out as the man who was always on the outside of the temple made his way into the temple courts walking, jumping, and praising God!

The Gospel to the Jews Commences

The people who witnessed the lame man now walking leaping and praising God were astonished and came to them to inquire as to how this came to be.

Peter takes this occasion to declare the Gospel of Jesus Christ to this Jewish audience by preaching the one who you disowned and had crucified is the same one whom God has glorified and that we now declare unto you.

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man was made whole.

Repent then and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

For Studio P ONLY:

The Temple, synagogue & church

LESSON 2 A GOSPEL FOR JEWS & THEN GENTILES [BONUS]

BEHIND | THE ACTS

Say it Anyhow

Acts: 4

The Priests, Temple Guard and the Sadducees begin to question Peter and John because they were “disturbed” by the teaching of the apostles to the people the principle of resurrection of the dead through Jesus

- ▶ This led to Peter and John's first trip to prison
- ▶ However, a prison stay didn't stop the work for about 5,000 folks who saw the miracle of the lame man and heard the message of the gospel became believers on the Lord Jesus Christ
- ▶ A prison stay leads to an audience with the Jewish elders and leaders who question by what power or what name did Peter and John do what they di.
- ▶ Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit declares the gospel to this group of rulers, elders and teachers of the law

Opposition Releases Power

Acts: 4

What shall we do with these men?

- ▶ Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”

Peter and John's conviction and boldness

- ▶ But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”

The Believers Prayer

- ▶ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Giving is from the heart

Acts: 5

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had.

Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

What's yours is yours and what's God's is God's. Settle it in your heart!

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

Oppressed but not forsaken

Acts: 5

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- ▶ The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people.
- ▶ This outpouring of God's spirit and power among the people caused the High priest and all of his associates to be filled with jealousy.
- ▶ This led to more jail time for the Apostles
 - ▶ Miraculous deliverance from the jail with the charge to go right back to preaching the gospel
 - ▶ This led to another session before the Sanhedrin with a strict order to stop preaching the gospel. This order also came with physical beating to further dissuade the Apostles
 - ▶ Yet the apostles left the Sanhedrin rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name of Jesus.
 - ▶ So they continued teaching and proclaiming the good news in the temple courts and from house to house that Jesus is the Messiah.

More hands for the work

Acts 6

Because of the explosive growth of the faith community the workload started to become overwhelming for the Apostles who were preaching and teaching the gospel while also trying to see to the needs of the faith community.

Solution:

- ▶ Choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom to oversee the responsibility of care for the community
- ▶ The proposal was pleasing to everyone so seven were chosen: Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.
- ▶ These men were then prayed for and commissioned to the work of the Deaconate.

The Pain and Glory of Preaching

Acts: 6-7

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Stephen's ministry led him to appear before the Synagogue of the Freedmen to give a Spirited defense of the gospel and God's work throughout history in his dealings with His people.

- ▶ This led to false accusations being raised against Stephen.
- ▶ Stephen's impassioned declaration of the gospel woven throughout history (Abraham to Jesus) in the lives of God's people.
- ▶ The members furious response to Stephen's sermon and their desire to stone him (the Pain of preaching)
- ▶ But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. (The Glory of preaching)

Persecution → Dispersion

Acts: 16

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- ▶ And Saul approved of their killing him.
- ▶ This signaled the beginning of severe persecution against the Christian church (people of the way) and further scattered the believers from the home base of Jerusalem to the outer regions of the area.
- ▶ Saul went about on a concerted campaign to eradicate the people of the way either through jailing them or killing them.
- ▶ This also led to a Damascus road experience for Saul where the Lord himself recruited him to the ministry of restoration (converted from chief prosecutor of the faithful to chief defender of the faith).



For Studio P ONLY:

Restoration from Exile in Acts Lecture

LESSON 3: A GOSPEL OF RESTORATION

THE ACTS

The Gospel to the Gentiles

Acts 16

Saul has been converted to the Apostle Paul by now and having taken the gospel to his fellow Jews he is now commissioned by Jesus to take the message to the Gentiles

- ▶ To begin the work to the Gentiles Paul finds a disciple uniquely qualified for the work. A Jewish/Gentile believer by the name of Timothy.
- ▶ Paul shows us what it means to be led by the Spirit (It is critical in our journey to be led by the Spirit).
 - ▶ Paul and his companions were prohibited by the Spirit from preaching in the province of Asia
 - ▶ Tried to preach in Bithynia but the Spirit would not allow them
 - ▶ In a vision a cry came from Macedonia (Come over to Macedonia and help us), and Paul concludes that God has called them to preach the gospel to them.

The Gospel at Work

Acts 16-21

The list below shows us the gospel of Jesus Christ going to work to reclaim people for the kingdom

- **Lydia and her whole household (chap 16 13-15)**
- **Paul and Silas in prison and the conversion of the jailer and his whole household (chap 16: 25-34)**
- **In Thessalonica and the conversion of Jews and Gentiles to the faith (chap 17: 1-4)**
- **In the city of Berea and some scripture following Jews as well as Greek men and women who lined up what Paul and Silas were preaching with the word of God from the scriptures and as a result believed the gospel (chap 17: 10-12)**
- **In Athens as Paul reasoned with the wise at the Areopagus as he told them who the unknown God they built an altar to really was (chap 17: 22-32)**
- **In Corinth where he met and discipled a couple who would become some of his closet allies in the faith-Aquila and Priscilla. There God showed Paul what impact his preaching would have on the city as God told him: ““Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. (Chap 18: 9-11)**

The Gospel at Work-cont.

- **The interaction with disciples at Ephesus who, having believed based on John the Baptist preaching had not been instructed in the gift of the Holy Spirit post resurrection. Upon receiving the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and being baptized in His name the Holy Spirit came upon them. (chap 19: 1-6)**
- ▶ **True vs. counterfeit: The seven sons of Sceva, A Jewish priest trying to invoke the name of Jesus when dealing with a man possessed by an evil spirit. You know the story. When confronted the evil spirit spoke up:** “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you? Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding. When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. 18Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. 19A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. 20In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. (Chap 19: 13-20)



For Studio P ONLY:

A Gospel For All People Lecture

LESSON 3: THE GOSPEL OF RESTORATION

BEHIND | ACTS

Declare The Gospel To All People

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.



For Studio P ONLY:

Wrap up conclusion

LESSON 3 THE GOSPEL & RESTORATION

BEHIND | THE ACTS

Carrying Out The Great Commission

As we have seen in this lesson the Apostle took the great commission seriously. Their intention and determination was to take the Gospel to the uttermost ends of the earth. That commission is still in affect!

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28: 18-20