

# The Book of Acts

## Chapter 4

Growth of the New Testament Church

# Quiz

2

- At what gate of Jerusalem was the lame man begging?
  - Beautiful
- What does the word “alms” mean?
  - Mercy, pity or a donation for the poor
- What was one of Peter’s motives for healing the lame man?
  - To open a door for witnessing to the multitudes
- What did Peter say he had none of?
  - Silver and gold

# Quiz

3

- Where did Peter go when people began to gather?
  - Solomon's Porch
- Concluding his sermon, what two actions did Peter call for?
  - Repent and be converted
- What does it mean to repent?
  - To change one's mind about his sin and God's salvation
- What 3 things did Paul say preaching must include (2Ti 4:2)?
  - Reprove, rebuke, exhort

# Two Opinions - Grief and Belief, v.1-4

4

- Note who it was that was grieved by the preaching of Jesus' resurrection.
  - The priests, captain of the temple, and the Sadducees.
  - The Sadducees were the heretics of the day (Acts 22:8). They rejected resurrection of the body and the existence of spirits and angels. They believed the soul perished with the body.
- The religious rulers put Peter and John in hold or custody, v.3
- Many who heard Peter's sermon believed, v.4
  - The word "was" means became. Total increased to about 5,000.

# Threats and Boldness, v.5-12

5

- The next day, the rulers gathered and questioned them, v.5-7
- Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit answered, v.8-12
  - Here is how the impotent (weak, infirmed) man was made whole.
  - It was by the name of **Jesus Christ**
    - The One you crucified
    - The One God raised from the dead
    - The One you builders rejected is become the corner headstone.
    - There is no salvation in any other, v.12
    - He is the **ONLY** one under heaven given to men that can save

In ancient building practices, cornerstones were very important. The builders who laid the foundation had to shape and set the cornerstone of the foundation accurately, because the whole building was set out in relation to it. The building depended upon the cornerstone for its successful construction (**Job 38:6; Isa 28:16; Jer 51:26**). **Bridgeway**

Binding together the sides of the building. Some of the temple ones are 19 ft. [5.8m] long and 7 1/2 [2.3m] thick. Compare Solomon's temple, **1Ki 5:17; 1Ki 7:9**. **Fausset**

Christ applied the cornerstone to Himself (**Mark 12:10**).

## Christ is the Cornerstone

6

# The Private Council, v.13-17

7

- They saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived...
  - They were unlearned [uneducated] and ignorant [common] men
  - They had been with Jesus. **Can people see you have been with Jesus?**
- Examining the former lame man, they could say nothing, v.14
- They called for a private council, v.15
- They had to admit that a miracle had been done, v.16
  - How sad! They **willingly** ignored clear evidence.
- They decided to threaten the apostles, v.17

# Opposing Commands - Man's & God's, v.18-22

8

- They commanded the apostles not to speak or teach in Jesus' name, v.18
- Peter and John boldly answered ...
  - You decide if it is right to obey you or to obey God, v.19
  - We CANNOT but speak what we have seen and heard, v.20
  - Men may limit our location for preaching, but they cannot limit our licence for preaching. Our licence is from God (Acts 1:8).
- They further threatened them, v.21
  - They feared the people because they glorified God for the miracle.



# Prayer for Boldness, v.23-30

9

- The men reported the threats to the Christians, v.23
- The Christians had a prayer meeting (all 5,000 of them?).
  - Note the content of their prayer.
    - They first exalted God's creation power, v.24
    - They quoted Scriptures to God (Psalm 2:1-2), v.25-26
    - They noted God's will accomplished by those who crucified Christ, v.27-28
    - They identified their problem. Lord, behold their threatenings, v.29
    - As servants they ask for all boldness to speak your word [not a way to escape].
    - Enable authenticating signs to be done in the name of your hold child Jesus, v.30
  - Meditate on the content of their prayer.

# The Holy Spirit's Filling and Power, v.31-33

10

- When they finished praying ... v.31
  - The building shook
  - They were filled with the Holy Spirit (cf. v.8)
  - They spoke God's Word with boldness
- They were unified as a congregation, v.32
- The apostles witnessed of the resurrection boldly, v.33
- Great grace was upon them all
  - God's great grace toward them moved them to have grace toward each other. **The closer we are to Christ, the more we reflect Him.**

The moment a person trusts Christ, he is baptised in the Spirit and received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. If you know Christ, you have **all** of the Holy Spirit you will ever have, but He may not have **control of all** of you. The Holy Spirit is ready to fill you. **Ephesians 5:18** is a passive command, you must **allow** the Holy Spirit to fill (**control**) you. I believe that His filling is a synonym for abiding in Christ (**Jn 15:4-5**) and walking in the light (**1Jn 1:7**). If you will immediately confess all sin and yield obediently to the control of the Holy Spirit, He will fill you. When filled, He will give you victory over sin (**Gal 5:16-17**) and produce His fruits in your life (**Gal 5:22-23**). Do not let sin and self-will keep you from the Filling of the Holy Spirit!

## Filling of the Holy Spirit

11

# Saintly Sacrificial Sharing, v.34-37

12

- With no government aid, the elderly, ailing, and poor often lacked daily provisions. Among the Christians, none of them lacked. They helped each other.
- Owners of land and houses sold them and gave the money to aid needy Christians, v.34-35
  - We do not know if this was extra land and houses or the ones they lived in themselves?
- One of those generous givers was Barnabas, v.36-37
- **May the Lord help us to be selfless and generous!**

# Applications for us today

13

- Like Peter, we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit and witness boldly.
  - Sin prevents this filling and boldness
  - Without Christ the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing!
- We must truly believe that there is salvation in NONE other name than Jesus.
  - All religions do NOT lead to heaven.
  - Believing in Christ but requiring good works does not lead to heaven.
- If we are commanded not to speak about Christ, we must obey God not man.
  - We may need to change our witnessing venue, but not our message.
- God gives His witnessing power through time spent with Him in prayer.
- If you lack boldness to witness, spend more time on your knees in prayer.
  - Remember, salvation is of the LORD!