



Class 1 ~ Acts, Part 1
8.21.19
Homework for week 8.21 – 8.27

Videos we watched in class:

New Testament Overview

<https://thebibleproject.com/explore/new-testament-overview>

Acts Series Part 1

<https://youtu.be/JQhkWmFJKnA>

Homework:

Everyday: First, pray that the Lord will reveal Himself through your reading and will impress His words upon your heart giving you clarity and transformation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 1 – Read: Acts 1-2

Who did Jesus appear to during the 40 days after his resurrection?
See Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-9; John 20:11-18; John 20:19-31; John 21: 1-14. Try to put yourself in their shoes. How would you feel? Try to imagine the range of emotions from the crucifixion to the appearances and on to the ascension. Note the changes in the scattered, timid disciples at the crucifixion and then after the resurrection. Why are the appearances after the resurrection so important? See 1 Corinthians 15:17-19.

What striking similarities can you see between the beginning of Jesus ministry in the gospel of Luke and the start of the Apostles ministry in the book of Acts? See Luke 3:21-22, Acts 1:7-8, Acts 2:1-3. What can you learn from this and how can you go about applying it to your life?

Day 2 – Acts 3-4

Acts 4:23-31 is a believers' prayer for boldness. Read this prayer and then pray this prayer for your own life and witness. How can we follow the great examples the apostles and early believers set for us? Have you taken any opportunities to be a bold witness for Christ? Have you been afraid? What holds you back? Ask God to show you opportunities to be a witness for Him.

Day 3 – Acts 5, Leviticus 10

From your reading on today: These are some of those stories we tend to wish were not included in the Bible. They always come with a bang, and a sense of horror. They seem like stories without mercy; stories dominated by an angry God

rather than a tender Father. But just as tabernacle worship set the people of Israel apart in the wilderness near Mt. Sinai, now the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit in God's people sets the Church apart in the known world at the time of Acts. So, the decision on the part of Ananias and Sapphira to offer their own 'strange fire' by lying to the apostles, the church and (most significantly) the Spirit is an act of rebellion that must be stopped in its tracks. So, Ananias and Sapphira, just like Nadab and Abihu, pay the price for their rebellion against our holy God.

Both sets of deaths appear harsh to us today but seen in context their appropriateness is more evident. In both cases, God's very new communities are under threat. External threats will come aplenty, but internal ones are far more treacherous, and potentially more destructive. The deaths of Nadab and Abihu, Ananias and Sapphira, demonstrate the absolute seriousness with which God watches over his people, and the absolute holiness of his character.

What should you learn about your God from this? What does this teach you about God's holiness? About His consistency? About His love? Do you have any parts of your heart that has "strange fire" or rebellious tendencies? Ask God to expose them to you and ask for His help in squelching them.

Day 4 – Acts 6

See Acts 6:1-6. The church was growing and had just faced an internal conflict in chapter 5. Now they had another internal conflict of a different nature. Did they let this stop the growth of the church? If the problem had not been resolved, would it have stopped the growth of the church?

Hebrews and Hellenists were both Christians, followers of Jesus and they were all from a Jewish background, but they had all embraced Jesus as their Messiah.

Satan loves to use an unintentional wrong to begin a conflict. The Hebrews were right in their hearts, and the Hellenists were right in their facts. These were perfect conditions for a church-splitting conflict.

How did they solve the problem? Do you think it was a wise resolution? Did they throw the complainers out? Did they divide into two congregations? Did they form a committee and discuss the problem to death? Do you have any conflict or discord in your family, church or other community? What can you learn from this today in dealing with it? Also read Ephesians 4:31-32, Colossians 3:13-14, Matthew 5:9, Matthew 7:12, Leviticus 19:18 and Exodus 14:14 for additional insight.

See Acts 3:1—6:7. With the growth of any community, you can expect wonderful times and serious challenges. This was no different in the early church. Reflect on how the qualities of the early church listed below built up the community or caused anxiety. How would you think others viewed these values outside their community? Thinking of today, how is life in your church community (or any other community) addressing these same issues now?

- Being of one heart and soul
- No private ownership of any possessions
- Interdependence among its members
- Generosity
- Fear
- Showing signs and wonders Of God
- Increasing rapidly in members
- Devotion to teaching
- Devotion to fellowship

Day 5 – Acts 7

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen to be responsible over the distribution of food to widows in the early church after a dispute arose (in question 6 above) and the apostles recognized they needed help. Acts 6:5 introduces this faithful man of God named Stephen: “a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit.” It is noteworthy that there have always been those faithful believers whose love for and commitment to the Lord seem to shine through so greatly that others around them notice, and Stephen was such a man. Nothing is known about the personal life of Stephen—his parents, his siblings, or whether he had a wife or children; however, what is known about him is what is truly important. He was faithful, even when faced with certain death. Your life's goal as a follower of Jesus is to become more like Him every day, but Stephen certainly serves as a human example of the godliness you are striving to attain. How can you become more like Stephen and thus Christ? See verses below for insight.

Psalms 119:105

Proverbs 3:5-6

Isaiah 40:31

Romans 12:12

Ephesians 5:1-2

Extra Credit:

Watch Read Scripture Acts video

<https://youtu.be/CGbNw855ksw>