

Acts In Action

Complete easy to use

Discussion Outlines

GREG KING
EVANGELIST

Greg King Publications
1722 Kelly Rd.
Helena, Montana 59602

2002 EDITION
All Rights Reserved

bigskyguy@juno.com

www.rockymountainchristian.org

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
OUTLINE OF THE BOOK.....	3
LESSON 1 "BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUS ALEM"	4
LESSON 2 "GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUS ALEM AND ITS SPREAD GEOGRAPHICALLY" .	7
LESSON 3 "GROWTH OF THE CHURCH RACIALLY"	12
LESSON 4 "GROWTH OF THE CHURCH ON THE AEGEAN SHORES"	17
LESSON 5 "PAUL TRIED FOR TRUTH"	22
LESSON 6 "ROUTE TO ROME"	26
SPECIAL STUDIES #1 "PENTECOST"	29

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

INTRODUCTION

AUTHOR:

Luke the physician (Acts 1:1; Luke 1:3-4). Acts refers back to the earlier work by the same author.

DESTINATION:

Written to Theophilus from Rome. Theophilus was probably a Roman nobleman of some standing.

DATE:

Probably written from Rome about 63 AD at the end of Paul's imprisonment.

KEY VERSE:

Acts 1:8 "You shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth"

NATURE & PURPOSE:

Acts contains 33 years of Christian history spanning from the Roman Emperor Tiberius Caesar to the infamous emperor Nero.(who was probably the emperor while Paul was in prison in Rome in Acts 28).

Acts shows how and why the early church grew from a frightened band of disciples huddled in the upper room to an invincible force which turned the world upside down with their teaching about Jesus Christ. "The Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were being saved"

Acts is a commentary on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-47). It demonstrates HOW the early church carried out the commission and exposes the ZEAL and emotion with which it was carried out.

Acts explains the early Christian's interpretation of the Great commission by recording 8 conversion cases.

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK

I. THE CHURCH ESTABLISHED IN JERUSALEM

(ACTS 1-7)

A. The church began with power (ch 1-2)

B. The church grew in Jerusalem (ch 3-7)

II. THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO JUDEA AND SAMARIA

(ACTS 8 - 12)

A. The church grows geographically (ch 8-9)

B. The church grows racially (ch 10 - 12)

III. THE CHURCH SPREAD TO THE UTTERMOST

(ACTS 13 - 28)

A. Paul's first missionary journey (ch 13-14)

B. Paul's second missionary journey (ch 15 - 18:22)

C. Paul's third missionary journey (18:23 - 21:26)

D. Paul's arrest and trial (ch 21:27 - ch 26)

E. Paul's arrival in Rome (ch 27 - 28)

MAJOR CONVERSION ACCOUNTS

Place an "X" under the column if the topic is addressed in the conversion story.

FAITH REPENTANCE CONFESSION BAPTISM

Acts 2:36-47	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acts 8:4-13	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acts 8:26-39	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acts 9:1-19	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acts 16:23-34	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acts 18:5-8	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acts 19:1-7	_____	_____	_____	_____
Acts 22:3-16	_____	_____	_____	_____

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

LESSON 1 "BIRTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM"

TEXT: Acts chapters 1-3

AIM :

To understand the establishment of the early church and gain an insight into the amazement, zeal, and enthusiasm the early Christians had because of the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

INTRODUCTION

Acts is a commentary on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:10-20). In this lesson we will examine the first account of obedience to the Great Commission.

The early Christians were filled with excitement and boldness because of Christ and the resurrection.

I. THE CHURCH: PREPARED

A. The commission (Acts 1:2-3; Matthew 28:18-20)

B. The Promise (Acts 1:4-8)

1. What did the apostles ask the Lord (1:6)?

2. What was the Lord's response (1:7-8)?

3. What was the three-fold plan of Christ for evangelizing the world? (1:8)

C. The Ascension (1:9-11)

1. Why were the men gazing intently into the sky?

2. What did the angels ask the apostles (1:11)?

3. Why did they ask this question?

Threefold plan:

1. Jerusalem

2. Judea & Samaria

3. The World!

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Prayer will be a recurring theme. Watch for it and record it.

- D. What attitude did the disciples have as they prepared to do the Lord's will (1:14)?
- E. Choosing a replacement (1:21-26)
 - 1. List the requirements for one to be a replacement apostle.
 - 2. What should this tell you about those who claim to be apostles today?

II. THE CHURCH: PROVIDED

- A. Pentecost (see special study #1 for details).
- B. The Promise Comes ((2:2-4)
 - 1. How did the Jews feel when they saw what was occurring (2:2,6,7,12)?
 - 2. Did this atmosphere of emotion continue (2:43)?
- C. Whoever Calls On His Name Will Be Saved (2:21!)
 - 1. This is a key verse of the entire book. It is the question for the reader: "What must I do to be saved?"
- D. What is the central theme of Peter's sermon? (2:22-36)

When God's will is carried out enthusiastically, people are amazed! (Theme)

***NOTE (2:24, 31, 32)...

Three-fold proof of the resurrection

- 1. Old Testament Prophesied it (2:25-31)
- 2. Apostles were eye witnesses of it (2:32)
- 3. Holy Spirit is confirmation of it (2:33)

Conclusion: Jesus is both Lord and Christ!

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

E. The Response (2:37-41)

How many responded to the message (2:41)?

F. Inside the Church (2:42-47)

Discuss some attitudes that these disciples had.

III. THE CHURCH: PROMOTED

A. The Lame Man Healed (3:1-8)

1. What emotions surrounded this event (3:10,11,12)?
2. Where have you seen this emotion before?

B. Peter's Second Sermon (3:11-26)

1. What was Peter's main theme in his message (3:15)?
2. What was Peter's message to the crowd (3:19)?
3. Have you seen this same message before in Acts? Where?
4. Who were to be the first ones to receive the Good News of Christ (3:26)? (Compare Romans 1:16; Matthew 15:24; Acts 13:46).

APPLYING THE LESSON:

1. What can YOU do to make this congregation like the church in Jerusalem?
2. Make a list right now of friends or family that you would like to see in heaven! Make the list now.
3. Begin praying for these souls and inviting them to church and ask them for a Bible Study.
4. What did you learn in this class?
5. Begin looking for the recurring ideas in Acts that Luke thought were important. (The resurrection, Holy Spirit, Continually devoting themselves, prayer, witness, boldness, how people were saved, power, and their numbers increased daily).

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

LESSON 2 "GROWTH OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM AND ITS SPREAD GEOGRAPHICALLY"

TEXT: Acts chapters 4-9

AIM:

To understand WHY the church grew and to see how rapidly it spread, in spite of serious opposition.

INTRODUCTION

The conversion of about 3,000 people on the day of Pentecost carried with it a zealous and enthusiastic spread of the message of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This new teaching caught the attention of multitudes of Jews, including those who were suspicious of this "sect" of Jesus followers. Opposition began to rise as conversions began to multiply.

In spite of opposition, the early disciples would not and could not but speak what they had seen and heard: the risen Master and the miraculous confirmation of His message.

In this lesson we will see persecution rise her ugly head against the disciples of the Lord. We will also witness events within the church and how they were handled. In spite of problems, the message exploded! Luke draws our attention to the fact that "the number of disciples kept on increasing daily."

I. THE PERSECUTION BEGINS (Acts 4)

A. The Sadducees (Acts 4:1-2)

**Compare Acts 23:8 and tell why the Sadducees were so disturbed with the Christian message.

B. Growth

"And the Lord added to their number daily"

1. What were the results of the preaching (4:4)?

2. What did the council notice about Peter and John (4:13)?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

"We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard"

3. What attitude or emotion does the council portray? Where have you seen this before?
4. What did the council order (4:17-18)?
5. What was the apostle's response (4:19-20)?
6. What do we see the disciples praying for (4:29)?
7. What continues to be the main theme of their preaching? (read 4:33, 10; 3:15; 2:31,24; 1:22-23)

II. THE PROBLEMS INSIDE

A. The Collection

1. Why do you suppose the collection was taken during this time (4:43-47)?
2. Note: there was a famine later on (11:28) and the church in Jerusalem appears to have suffered chronic poverty (cf. 1Corinthians 16:1-2).

B. Sapphira and Ananias Judged

1. What was their sin (5:3)?
2. What does this teach us about allowing other people to influence us against what's right?

C. Growth Continues

1. What emotions do we see occurring? (5:5,11; 3:10,11; 2:6,7,12; 1:10)
2. What kept occurring in the church (5:14)?
Note: where have you seen this before?
3. What happened to the apostles (5:17-18)?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

4. What did this persecution do to their attitudes (5:21,25,29,41)?

5. Explain what is occurring in 5:42.

6. What was the result (6:1)?

D. Stephen Stoned

1. Steven reviews Jewish history in his sermon and convicts them of their hardness of heart.

2. In Acts 2:34 and Hebrews 1:3 what is Jesus' posture?

3. What is Jesus doing in 7:55-56? Why?

III. THE PREACHING SPREADS

**The church scatters to Judea and Samaria (Acts 1:8)

A. The Persecution Increases (8:1-4)

1. What was the result of the persecution (8:1)?

2. How intense was this persecution (8:3)?

3. Discussion: Suppose the same persecution occurred at this congregation. What would you realistically do?

4. What did they do (8:4)? Why?

B. Phillip's Journey (8:5-40)

1. When Phillip preached and confirmed the word, what attitude filled the hearts of the observers (8:12-13)?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

2. What was Phillip's message (8:35-38)?

NOTE: preaching Jesus included baptism.

3. Why do you think the church spread so rapidly in the first century (8:40; 5:42)?

IV. A PREACHER IS CONVERTED (9:1-20)

A. Saul's Commission (9:15)

1. What was God's plan for Saul even before he obeyed the Gospel (9:15)?
2. Ananias was used by God to bring salvation to a great man. Is there a possibility that someone you know may become great like Saul if you shared the message with him or her?
3. You may be an Ananias or a Paul right now and not even know it. Let God have His way with you.

B. Saul's Reaction (9:19b ff.)

1. What did Saul do as a new convert (9:20, cf 4:20)?
2. What reaction did people have (9:20)
3. Have you seen this type reaction before? Where?
4. Do you think that you might get this type of reaction if you preached the same message that Paul did?

C. The Church's Nature

1. What continued to happen with the church (9:31)?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

2. Do you think the church today can be just like the early church that you see in Acts? How?

3. If the church is different in its growth what reasons can you think of to explain the difference?

APPLYING THE LESSON

1. Continue praying for the people that you want to see in heaven. Have you invited them to study with you?
2. What ideas keep recurring throughout the book of Acts?
3. What things have you learned in this lesson that you need to apply in your life? (Remember, faith without action is dead).
4. Begin to practice what the early disciples did with the message of the resurrection of Christ.(5:42). Share with someone your experience and results.

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

LESSON 3 "GROWTH OF THE CHURCH RACIALLY"

TEXT: Acts chapters 10 - 15

AIM:

To observe and demonstrate God's love for the souls of all men everywhere. We will see the Gospel being spread throughout the world and the Lord's church being established in areas before untouched with the Gospel message.

INTRODUCTION

The apostles were commissioned to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15-16). In their minds, this meant every "Jewish" creature. To the Jew, the Gentile was unclean and therefore unworthy of the message of God.

God, however, had an eternal purpose to save all men, both Jew and Gentile, and bring them together into one body, the church (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 2:11-16).

In this lesson we will see how it took a miracle to convince the Jews that God really would accept the Gentiles. The first Gentile converts were Cornelius and his household. The acceptance of the Gentiles into the church was not without controversy. We will see God's wisdom in handling this problem.

The more the message of the Risen Christ spread, the more intense the persecution became against the disciples of the Lord. Regardless of problems inside or outside the church, the number of disciples continued to multiply.

Let's thrill together as we witness the great beginnings of the racial spread of Christianity and the missionary journeys of the apostle to the Gentiles - Paul.

I. FIRST GENTILE CONVERTS (Acts 10)

A. Preparing A Preacher (Acts 10:1-28)

1. Describe the type of man this Gentile named Cornelius was.

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

2. Since Cornelius was a Gentile, how did the Jewish people view him (Acts 10:28a)?

3. How did God convince Peter (a Jew) to go and visit these "unclean" Gentiles (Acts 10:9-15, 28b)?

4. What was Peter's conclusion to these events (10:34-36)?

B. The Gentiles Obey

1. What was the theme of Peter's sermon to the Gentiles (10:39-41)?

2. Where have you seen this idea before in Acts? (Cross reference this idea)

3. What occurred while Peter was preaching (10:44-45)?

4. What reaction did this have on the Jewish believers who were with Peter (10:45)?

5. What did Peter command Cornelius and his household to do (10:48)?

6. What was the purpose of baptism in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1Peter 3:20-21)?

Remember, there is only one valid baptism in God's will today (Ephesians 4:4-5) That baptism is water baptism (1 Peter 3:20-21)

Note: baptism in the Holy Spirit did not offer forgiveness of sins to Cornelius's household. Until they obeyed the teaching concerning water baptism, they were still lost in their sins (cf. John 3:3-5).

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

II. OPPOSITION TO THE GENTILES (Acts 11)

Often, others aren't like us and we reject them. We need to receive all men and women who become disciples.

A. The Jewish Reaction (11:1-3)

1. Describe how the first news of the Gentile conversion was received by the Jews?

B. Peter's Defense

1. What is the first event Peter describes as a defense (11:4-9)?

2. What is the second defense (11:12)?

3. What is Peter's third defense (11:15)?

4. What was the conclusion to Peter's evidence (11:18)?

III. PERSECUTION CONTINUES WITH GROWTH (Acts 11:19ff)

A. Preaching The Word Produces Growth (11:19-26)

1. What happened when the word was proclaimed to the Greeks (11:20-21)?

2. Have you seen this idea of growth before in Acts? Where?

3. Where was Barnabas sent by the Jerusalem church (11:22)?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

**Could this church be another "Antioch?"
What needs to happen if it's to be?**

Note: Antioch will become the sight for a great church which will be responsible for helping the missionary efforts of Paul.

4. Who does Barnabas choose to work with him (11:25-26)?
5. What is the result of the ministry in Antioch (11:24,26)?

B. Persecution Promotes Prayer (Acts 12)

1. Describe the persecution taking place (12:1-4).

Cross reference this idea...

2. What does the church do because of the persecution (12:5)?
3. What was the result of the prayer (12:7-11)?

IV. THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY (Acts 13:2 - 14:28)

A. The Message is Preached

1. What continues to be done by Paul and Barnabas on their journey (13:5)?

Cross reference this idea...

2. What is the reaction of the proconsul to the Word (13:12)?
3. When Paul preaches, what continues to be his main theme (13:30,33,34,37)?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

*Would you say
that growth is
a pattern of
the church?*

B. Persecution and Opposition

1. Why did the Jews oppose Paul and his companions (13:45)?

2. What kept happening wherever the word was being preached (13:49; 14:1, 21)? Why?

3. What did Paul and his companions continue to do regardless of circumstances (13:7)?

- Do we preach and share our faith as fervently as they did?
- Do we achieve the results that they did?
- Would we achieve similar results if we sowed as bountifully?

4. Where did Paul return to (14:26)?

V. THE JERUSALEM COUNCIL (Acts 15)

A. The Problem

1. What were some people teaching that prompted this council (15:1)?

2. What did the church leaders do (15:2-3)?

B. The Conclusion

1. What was decided in the council (15:23-29)?

APPLYING THE LESSON

1. Examine the missionary journeys on your map.
2. Share with someone the results of the people with whom you have been sharing your faith this week.
3. What is one thing that you learned in this lesson that you should apply to your life?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

LESSON 4 "GROWTH OF THE CHURCH ON THE AEGEAN SHORES"

TEXT: Acts chapters 16 - 20

AIM:

To observe the nature and characteristics of the New Testament churches that were established by the apostle Paul. This will motivate Christians to imitate Paul's life and help us to establish churches that grow rapidly as we examine the "pattern" for New Testament evangelism and growth.

INTRODUCTION

During the first missionary journey, Paul and his mission team planted possibly eight indigenous churches in a period of no more than two years. These churches grew rapidly, not because they had a dynamic preacher, but because the Christians in each church spread the gospel to the lost themselves!

In Jerusalem, in Samaria, in Antioch, in Philippi, in Thessalonica, in Athens, In Corinth, in the Temple, in the streets, in the desert places, in jails, in the synagogues, in the market places, by the river, among Jews, among Gentiles, among the religious, among the pagans, among the searching, among the satisfied, the gospel was spoken, preached, taught, and discussed by the disciples of the Lord Jesus.

That word touches the sincere, changed the brutal, upset the world, confronted the educated, and saved the damned!

Let each of us be challenged and changed by this lesson as we observe our early brothers and sisters in Christ as they obeyed the commission: Going into all the world, preaching the gospel to all creation. Let us imitate them.

I. THE COMMISSION CONTINUES CONVERTING

(Acts 15 - 18)

A. The Gospel: Preached In Spite of Personal Differences (15:36 - 40)

1. What occurred to cause a sharp contention between Paul and Barnabas (15:38, cf 13:13)?

2. Did this disagreement cause the preaching to cease?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

3. What characterized the churches that Paul began (16:5)?

B. The Gospel: Touches The Sincere (16:9-15)

1. What was the plea of the night time vision of the Macedonian man (16:9)?

Point: there are sincere people who are trying to worship God in the only way they know how who will obey the truth when they hear it. Who will tell them? Will you?

2. What city did Paul target to begin preaching in (16:12)? Why?

3. What kind of people did Paul first look for (16:13)?

4. What effect did the gospel have on Lydia and her household (16:14)?

C. The Gospel: Changes The Brutal (16:19 - 34)

1. Why did the jailer treat Paul and Silas like he did (16:24)?

2. What did Paul and Silas do even though they had been severely beaten and mistreated (16:25)? Why?

3. What was the jailer about to do when he thought the prisoners had escaped (16:27, cf 12:19)? Why?

There were a number of converts in Philippi. These believers financially supported Paul (Philippians. 4:15 - 19)

4. What did Paul do to the man and his family (16:31-33)?

D. The Gospel: Upsets Those In Darkness (17:1 - 15)

1. What is the result of some when the word is preached boldly (17:4,12; 1Thessalonians 1:8)?

2. What was Paul's main theme (17:3;18)?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

3. What was the result of the preaching on others (17:5-8)?
Why? (see also John 3:19 -20).

E. The Gospel: Makes Foolish The Wisdom Of This World (17:16 - 34).

1. How did Paul feel in Athens (17:16)? Why?

▪ How should you feel when you view false religions?

2. Paul speaks to the intellectual philosophers of the city. Read 1Corinthians 1:18 -21 and tell why these "educated" people acted as they did.

*Some believed
however, and
became followers
of Jesus.*

F. The Gospel: Saves The Perverted (18:1-11)

1. What was Paul doing in Corinth (18:4-5)?

2. What was the results of his teaching and preaching (18:8)?

3. Read 1Corinthians 6:9-11 and list the type of people that became disciples in Corinth.

4. Do you have a tendency to think that some people are "too bad" to become Christians? What do you think the Pharisees would have thought about these type of people in the church?

II. NEW BELIEVERS IN EPHESUS (Acts 19)

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

A. The Beginning Of A Great Church

1. How did Paul convert the first Christians in Ephesus (19:1-5)?
2. Describe Paul's method of teaching (19:8-9)
3. What occurred as a result of Paul's 3 year ministry in Ephesus (19:9-10, cf. 20:31)?
4. Discuss how this could happen here in our city.

B. Bewilderment Because Of The Gospel

1. What resulted from the gospel being preached (19:17- 20)?
2. Why did this cause opposition (19:23 - 26)?

III. TOUCHING FAREWELL FROM EPHESUS (20:17ff)

A. Paul's Ministry

1. How did Paul describe his ministry (20:18 - 21)?
2. What awaited Paul (20:23)?
3. What attitude of service does Paul demonstrate (20:24; Philippians 1:21; 3:7-11; Galatians 2:20)?
4. What could he claim about his teaching (20:26 - 27)?

1 Cor 11:1...Should you think like Paul?

Can you claim this with people you talk to?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

5. How did these Christians say good-bye (20:36 - 38)?

APPLYING THE LESSON

1. Do you know anyone who may be sincere like Lydia, but not fully following the gospel?
2. Do you know anyone who may be somewhat brutal like the jailer that just might obey the Lord if you shared your faith with him?
3. On a scale of 1 - 10 (10 being really committed) how committed are you to obeying the Lord in sharing your faith?
4. On a scale of 1 - 10 (10 being really committed) how committed are you to loving the lost?
5. What is the greatest way of showing your love to lost souls?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

LESSON 5 "PAUL TRIED FOR TRUTH"

TEXT: Acts chapters 21 - 24

AIM:

To observe the providence of God at work in those who carry the Gospel. By examining how God guided and protected His servants, we will be able to have more boldness and courage as we teach and share our faith.

INTRODUCTION

Paul was chosen by God as a vessel to proclaim His name before the Gentiles, kings, and the sons of Israel (9:15). He was also prepared by God to withstand the persecution that would accompany his teaching (9:16).

In this lesson we will witness Paul's trials and the defense of his faith as God uses him to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus and the salvation found in Him.

Let us become imitators of Paul in our boldness and in our use of every opportunity to share the precious message of life to a world that is dead in sin (1Corinthians 11:1).

I. PROVIDENTIAL PREPARATIONS (20:36 - 23:11)

A. The Future Foretold (20:36 - 21:14)

1. Why did the Ephesian elders grieve at Paul's departure (20:36 - 38)?
2. What does Paul and his companions do when they get to a new town (20:36 - 38)?
3. What was the Spirit's message to Paul (21:4; 21:10 - 12)?
4. What was Paul's attitude toward his coming persecution (21:13-14; 20:23)?

<p><i>Note the greetings and hospitality (20:37; 21:7,17,19; Romans 16:16)</i></p>
--

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

5. What do you think you'd do in a similar situation?

B. The Trouble Begins (21:15-36)

1. What had the Jewish people been told about Paul (21:20-21)?
2. What was Paul's action regarding their accusations (21:23-26)? Was this wrong for him to do? Why or why not?
3. Who caused the trouble (21:27; 20:19,3; 17:5; 9:23-24)?
4. What was the magnitude of the disturbance (21:31)?
5. Compare 2 Timothy 3:10-12. Should we be overly distressed when we receive persecution because of our faith? Why?

C. Paul's Defense (21:37 - 23:11)

1. Though Paul had been severely beaten, what did he still want to do (21:39)?
2. What was he trying to do in his message (22:1; cf. 1 Peter 3:15)?
3. What is Paul's evangelistic method in this situation (22:3-16)?
4. When Paul was before the Sanhedrin council, how did he turn attention away from himself (23:6-10)?
5. What was the Lord's message to Paul (23:11)?
6. Is God working out a definite plan in Paul's life? Compare

Have you shared your conversion story lately?

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9:15 and explain.

II. TRIAL BEFORE CIVIL AUTHORITIES (23:23 - 24:25)

A. On Trial Before Felix

1. How did the Jews view Paul and his message (24:5)?

2. How did Paul react to the accusations (24:10ff)?

Read 1Peter 1:14-16 and write down how you are to react under persecution and intimidation.

*The resurrection story
creates interest in
people's heart (13:42;
17 :32-34)*

3. What affect did Paul's message have on Felix (24:24)?

4. What did Paul discuss with Felix and his wife (24:25)?

5. What was Felix's reaction?

Note: don't be alarmed at the reaction of some people to the message. Your job is simply to share it and let the word accomplish its task in the hearts of individuals.

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

APPLYING THE LESSON

1. We have seen the providence of God leading Paul into opportunities to share his faith. Read Colossians 4:5-6. How should you view every situation?
2. Can you think of a situation where you were falsely accused or rejected because of your faith? Read Acts 24:15-16 and tell how you would use this as an evangelistic opportunity.
3. What did you learn from this lesson? Share your ideas and insights.

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

LESSON 6 "ROUTE TO ROME"

TEXT: Acts chapters 25 - 28

AIM:

To observe God's ultimate purpose being worked out in the lives of His obedient servants and to demonstrate how God puts His messengers in strategic locations using even adverse means.

INTRODUCTION

God had a plan for Paul to preach the Gospel in Rome (23:11). In this lesson we will see how God assures Paul's safety and how God uses unusual means to put Paul in Rome so that he could accomplish his mission.

Let us see God's mighty hand deliver Paul from his accusers and guide him to his preaching engagement in Rome. We will witness God's promise being kept when He said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you," (Hebrews 13:5).

I. PAUL PREACHES TO FESTUS (25:1-21)

A. Accusations Turned Into Opportunities

1. What is the intention of the Jews (25:2-3)?

2. What is Paul's reaction to their request for him to be brought to Jerusalem (25:10-12)?

3. Is his request in keeping with God's plan (23:11; 9:15)? Explain.

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

4. What teaching of Paul's was causing the problem (25:19)?
Where have you seen this before in Acts?

II. PAUL PREACHES TO AGRIPPA (26:1-29)

A. Paul's Defense (26:2-8)

1. What was Paul's main theme in his defense to Agrippa (26:6-8)?

B. Paul's Story (26:9ff)

1. Explain what Paul is doing as he defends himself (26:9-19).

2. Does Paul make his message applicable to the Gentile Agrippa (26:20-23)? How?

3. What was Agrippa's response to the testimony of Paul (26:26-27)?

4. Was it Paul's intention to use this opportunity to produce faith in the hearts of his hearers (26:29)?

III. THE JOURNEY BEGINS (27:1ff)

A. The Peril At Sea

1. What is happening to the ship at sea (27:15-20)?

2. What assurance does Paul give to the crew and passengers (27:23-25)?

***POINT: When we do
God's will, He has
promised to be with us
and not forsake us in
our labor for Him.
We're not alone!***

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

3. Compare Acts 23:11 and Matthew 28:20 and tell why Paul could be so confident.

IV. ARRIVAL AT ROME (28:11-31)

A. Greeting The Christians

1. Who did Paul and Luke find when they were getting close to Rome (28:14-15)?
2. What did Paul do when he saw the family of God (28:15)?

B. Paul Preaches At Rome (28:16ff)

1. What happened to the guards who watched Paul (28:16; cf. Philippians 1:12-13)?
2. Who did Paul call as an audience (28:17)?
3. What was Paul persuading them to believe (28:23)?
4. What kind of response did Paul get from his teaching (28:24)?
5. What did Paul do while being under "house arrest" in Caesar's palace (28:31-31).

APPLYING THE LESSON

1. Acts stops abruptly at the end of chapter 28. It appears as though there should be a continuation of the book. Is there?
2. What can you put into practice in your life from this study?
3. Do you think God has a specific plan for your life? How can you be used by God to accomplish His ultimate plan? What kind of

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

attitude do you need to develop in order to allow God to use you as His instrument ?

Special Studies #1 "Pentecost"

Text: Acts 2:1-4

The word "Pentecost" means "fiftieth" (see Leviticus 23:15-24; Exodus 23:16). This festival occurred 50 days (thus "Pente") after the Passover Sabbath (Leviticus 23:15-16). It took place upon the first day of the week (Sunday) (Exodus 34:22 ff.; Deuteronomy 16:16).

There are four names given to this feast:

Feast of Harvest (Exodus 23:16).

Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10)

Pentecost (found only in the New Testament)

Festival of Conclusion (this name is found only in Jewish writings and is so called because it concluded the events that started at the Passover).

Many considered Pentecost to be the greatest feast of the year and as such it brought the most people to Jerusalem for its celebration.

Pentecost was the beginning of the following events:

- A. The New Covenant's initiation (Hebrews 8:8; 9:15-17)
- B. The first preaching in the name of Jesus (Luke 24:46 ff.)
- C. Baptism in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38)
- D. The coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4; 33; cf. John 17:6)
- E. The giving of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to all believers (2:38; 39; cf. Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30)
- F. The reigning of Christ on David's throne (Acts 2:30-31).
- G. The fulfilling of the prophecies of Joel (Joel 2:28 ff.; Acts 2:1-4; 16; 28-32)
- H. The building of the Lord's church through the preaching of the apostles (cf. Matthew 16:16-18)

Acts In Action...

"You shall be my witnesses, both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

G. The work and worship of the church (Acts 2:42-47)

Note the greetings and hospitality (20:37; 21:7,17,19; Romans 16:16)

Have you shared your conversion story lately?

The resurrection story creates interest in people's heart (13:42; 17 :32-34)

POINT: When we do God's will, He has promised to be with us and not forsake us in our labor for Him. We're not alone!