

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

HOWBEIT MANY OF THEM WHICH HEARD THE WORD BELIEVED;

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **ACTS 4:1-11**

Acts 4:3-4, *And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. 4: Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.*

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message January 26, 2020

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Today we will follow the steps of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. Now that He has ascended to the right hand of the Father, He left in place, apostles to continue to propagate the Gospel message. **Acts 2:41-42**, *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. 42: And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
- c. We looked at His birthplace in Bethlehem, we followed Him to the place where He grew up and His life in Nazareth, and then we traced His steps to the Sea of Galilee where He called His first followers. We have also gone to Capernaum where He moved His headquarters and where He demonstrates His power, not only to save mankind but also to perform miracles. We looked several Sunday ago at His sacrifice on Mount Calvary where man's sins were paid for. We have focused on the Gospel – the death burial and resurrection of Jesus. **1 Corinthians 15:1**, *Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*, *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, **how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:***
- d. Several Sundays ago we focused on the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ and we touched on His second coming. He is coming again. He is coming in two stages. First, He will call the church to meet Him in the clouds. Secondly, He is coming to close down the tribulation period which is for the Nation Israel on the Earth and to establish His Kingdom on Earth. **1 Thessalonians 4:17**, *Then we which*

are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **Zechariah 14:4**, *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.* **Matthew 24:22**, *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.*

- e. Jesus has ascended to the right hand of the Father to make intercessions for every born again believer. **Romans 8:34**, *Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.*
- f. It is only appropriate that we continue to follow His ministry here on Earth to see what happens.
- g. If you will recall, before God ascended to the right hand of the Father, He did two things. He called apostles to prorogate and carry the Gospel. **Acts 2:42**, *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.* In so doing there were two primary spokesmen; Peter to the Jews since the Gospel was to go to the Jews first, then to the Gentiles and the apostle Paul was converted and called to carry the Gospel to them.
- h. The book of **Acts** is a book of action. It is a transitional book if you will. There are two apostles that are focused on in this book; Peter in the first part and Paul in the second portion.
- i. We will be looking at the Apostle Paul and His method of carrying the Gospel to the Gentiles at a later date.
- j. Today we will focus on Peter. We know a lot about the first sermon Peter preached on the day of Pentecost where 3,000 souls were saved. **Acts 2:41**, *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
- k. I do not hear very much about Peter's second sermon where he focused on the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- l. In this message it was a greater outpouring of believers than in the first message.
- m. There were 5,000 men not including the women and children. It was a great outpouring of the Gospel on the resurrection and many believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. **Acts 4:4**, *Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.*
- n. Today we will observe when the Gospel is preached there will be opposition.
- o. This should be a wake-up call for Chesswood Baptist Church. We must understand when the Preserved Word of God is preached and the whole council of God is taught there will be opposition.
- p. We will be looking today at the first persecution of the early church.
- q. With that introduction let's get into the meat of the message today and see what we can glean from God's precious Word.

3. SEVEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. And as they spake unto the people.

- 1. **Acts 4:1-2**, *And as they spake unto the people,* the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, **2: Being grieved that**

they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

2. When the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is preached, there will be opposition.
3. We will focus on two primary religious groups in Scripture.
4. During the time of Christ, both of these groups were against His message.
5. The Pharisees believed in the resurrection and were very legalistic thinking that their good works would gender a place in Heaven. *Today, the opposition to the Gospel many times comes from those who are attending church.*
6. We must remember salvation is based on our acceptance of God's plan which the center part being the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **John 1:12**, *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
7. We are to preach and teach the Preserved Word of God to the people. **1 Timothy 3:15**, *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*
8. Once the Pharisees got Jesus on the cross they were pretty much satisfied that they had defeated His purpose.
9. There were however several Pharisees among Christ's enemies that got saved; Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, and Saul of Tarsus who later became the apostle Paul.
10. The other enemy who did not believe in the resurrection now step up to the forefront. The Sadducees wanted to deny the resurrection and they were upset because in this particular verse Peter was focusing on it. *Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.*
11. This is the central part of the Gospel. If there be no resurrection then you and I are still in our sins. **1 Corinthians 15:17-20**, *And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18: Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. 19: If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20: But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*
12. Regardless of the opposition we must continue to preach and teach the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
13. The opposition got so strong from the Sadducees that it resulted in the arrest of the apostles for preaching and teaching the Word of God.
14. Today we are not arrested, not yet, but that day might come. Those who teach and preach the whole counsel of God are misunderstood and many times persecuted.
2 Timothy 3:12, *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

b. Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed.

1. **Acts 4:3-4**, *And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide. 4: Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.*

2. If we search the Word of God, we will find out that this is happening on Solomon's porch following the sermon that Peter just delivered.
3. The Bible speaks of 5,000 men who believed.
4. As we have indicated in the introduction it does not speak of the women and children.
5. What an outpouring of the Gospel. This day and time we think people are not getting saved like they should and the primary reason is that pastors and preachers have become lukewarm in the pulpit, failing to preach the Preserved Word of God. **Jeremiah 12:10, Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.**
6. When the Word of God is preached people will respond. It is sharp and powerful and quick. **Hebrews 4:12, For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**
7. We have always talked about Peter that he always seemed a little fickle.
8. We also find that he is now a total different man.
9. Although he denied Christ three times, God commissioned him to preach the Gospel on the Day of Pentecost and 3,000 souls were saved.
10. Here we see the outpouring of the Gospel and Peter focusing on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and it is upsetting to the Sadducees; however, men and women did respond to the Gospel and 5,000 souls were saved.
11. This is a tremendous growth in the early church. This makes 8,000 converts to Christ.
12. Is that same thing possible today? Yes, only when we teach and preach the whole council of God, men and women will walk the aisle to receive Christ as their Saviour and follow the Lord's command in believer's baptism.

c. And it came to pass on the morrow.

1. **Acts 4:5-6, And it came to pass on the morrow,** that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, **6: And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.**
2. This verse focuses on the gathering at Jerusalem of the kindred of the high priest.
3. These were the folks who had the hidden agenda.
4. Annas and Caiaphas are in the background. These two men condemned Jesus to die. **John 18:12-14, Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him, 13: And led him away to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year. 14: Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.**
5. They are upset that the apostles are boldly preaching the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and they are contemplating action to destroy this message.

d. And when they had set them in the midst.

1. **Acts 4:7, And when they had set them in the midst,** they asked, **By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?**

2. Peter and John are now brought before the Sanhedrin.
3. This group is something similar to our city council in most of our cities who make decisions concerning city business.
4. The lame man had been healed. They cannot deny this miracle.
5. It is amazing Jesus' enemies never denied the fact He could perform miracles, they saw that, but, they wanted to know **By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?**
6. This day in time, people continue to deny the miracles in the Preserved Word of God and want to change it to suit their own purposes.
7. The enemies in that day understood what Jesus was about and they did not question His miracles, they only question where He got the power to perform them.

e. Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them.

1. **Acts 4:8**, Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,
2. Notice that Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit. This is not a repeat of Pentecost where he was baptized into the body of Christ. **Romans 6:3-4**, Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **4: Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 1 Corinthians 13**, For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
3. Peter is a saved man here. This should alert us as believers.
4. What in the world is this filling of the Holy Spirit? Notice that this filling happened to believers on many occasions. **Acts 4:31**, And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. We must be careful to know that this is not the day of Pentecost.
5. Today we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. After we are saved we need to add to our faith. **2 Peter 1:5-9**, **And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; 6: And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; 7: And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. 8: For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9: But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**
6. The filling of the Holy Spirit gets the flesh out of the way and allows us to go forth and do great things for God. **1 Corinthians 9:27**, But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. Galatians 5:16, This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
7. Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit as he deals with the Sanhedrin who is about to arrest them and eventually their lives will be lost for the cause of the Gospel.
8. This is not a repeat of Pentecost. Many are waiting for a repeat. That will

never happen my friend; it happened one time and will not happen again.

9. Today believers are baptized into the body of Christ and we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit but when we empty ourselves there is a difference between being committed which we are in charge of our own will and being surrendered which is being in God's will and being concerned about what thus saith the Lord.

10. Peter is the spokesman for the Lord Jesus Christ to the Jews.

f. If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man.

1. **Acts 4:9-10**, *If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 10: Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.*
2. Peter does an excellent job of being filled with the Holy Spirit and opening his mouth to speak forth the Gospel. **Ephesians 6:15**, *And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace*; defiantly comes into play. He was filled with the Holy Spirit and it allowed him to say the right things.
3. When we get rid of the flesh and we are filled with the Holy Spirit, it allows us to say the right words and do the right things.
4. Many times we say things that will turn people off. **Acts 3:6**, *Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.* We must note that Peter had the sign gift of healing.
5. Here Peter is speaking to the enemy and he speaks the truth. It might not have had an impact on them but all around there were people being saved; 5,000 men after Peter preached this powerful message.
6. One of the things Chesswood Baptist Church needs to understand is that neither Peter nor Paul or any other apostle preached without telling about the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

g. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders.

1. **Acts 4:11**, *This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.*
2. Peter reflects on two things in this passage.
3. First of all that the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified and raised from the dead. How was He raised? By God. There was no stone that needed to be removed because God was the one who raised Him. **Acts 3:26**, *Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*
4. The resurrection is not only a historical fact but it is a fundamental truth; something we must believe and keep clearly in focus.
5. Secondly Peter refers to Jesus Christ as the head of the corner.
6. Jesus said in **Matthew 16:18**, *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* The rock was not Peter it was Christ. **1 Corinthians 10:4**, *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*
7. The stone that Peter is referring to is the local church that Jesus established

to propagate the Gospel. **1Timothy 3:15** *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

8. Jesus Christ is the head of the church. **Ephesians 5:23**, *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*
9. In the church there are several things that need to be the central focus.
10. The preaching of the Preserved Word of God should be first.
11. What should the man of God be preaching? The Preserved Word of God is infallible; there are no errors, justification by faith, and the Deity of Christ that includes the death, burial, resurrection and Jesus' second coming.
12. Notice how Peter narrows it down.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour my friend?
- b. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour today needs to be your day of salvation.
- c. He is the Creator of the universe, He spoke it into existence and He came to earth to save.
- d. He came not to call the righteous but to call sinners. **Luke 5:32**, *I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*
- e. It is a level playing field. **Revelation 22:17**, *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*
- f. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- g. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- h. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- i. Would you please stand?

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