

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THEY TOOK KNOWLEDGE OF THEM, THAT THEY HAD BEEN WITH JESUS

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SUNDAY EVENING, JANUARY 26, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **ACTS 4: 12-22**

Acts 4:13, Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. The **Book of Acts** is sometimes called the fifth gospel. Acts was written by Dr. Luke and is a continuation of the **Gospel of Luke**.
- b. The **Book of Acts** is a remarkable book, bridging the gap between the gospels and the epistles.
- c. The last recorded fact about Jesus in the **Book of Matthew** is the resurrection, which is reflected in **Acts Chapter One**.
- d. In the **Gospel of Mark**, the last recorded act of Jesus is the ascension, which is also reflected in **Acts Chapter One**.
- e. In the **Gospel of Luke**, the last recorded fact is the promise of the Holy Spirit, which is reflected in **Acts Chapter One**.
- f. The last recorded fact in the **Gospel of John** is the second coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which is found in **Acts Chapter One**.
- g. The **Book of Acts** is like a busy airport where planes are coming in from four different cities and finally ending up at the Atlanta airport.
- h. The Great Commission is also recorded in the **Book of Acts** where God tells us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. It appears in all four gospels and is confirmed in the **Book of Acts**.
- i. The **Book of Acts** could be referred to as a ladder on which all the epistles are placed.
- j. It records the birth and official beginning of the church.
- k. The central theme of the **Book of Acts** is found in **Acts 1:8**, which says, *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*
- l. Notice the Holy Spirit comes upon us to give us power to witness for Christ. **Romans 8:9**, *But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*
- m. The **Book of Acts** can naturally be divided by key verses and chapters.

- n. The first seven chapters of **Acts** record the Lord Jesus Christ at work by the Holy Spirit through the apostles in Jerusalem.
- o. **Chapters eight** through **twelve** records the Lord Jesus Christ at work by the Holy Spirit through the apostles in Judea and Samaria.
- p. The remainder of the book is devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ at work by the Holy Spirit through the apostles unto the uttermost parts of the earth.
- q. Dr. Luke focuses on several key things in the **Book of Acts**, which I will briefly summarize.
 - 1. The Lord Jesus now leaves His disciples and changes His headquarters from Capernaum to the right hand of the Father.
 - 2. The Holy Spirit is now given and will indwell every single believer.
 - 3. Jesus emphasizes His power in the church only as we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us as believers.
 - 4. Jesus talks about the church, both visible and invisible, as a new institution comprised as the Bride of Christ and are composed of both Jew and Gentile.
 - 5. The book begins at Jerusalem and ends at Rome, which indicates that the Gospel is to go out to all the world.
 - 6. Dr. Luke mentions by name one hundred ten people with respect to the **Book of Acts**, which indicates the church had tremendous growth.
 - 7. Dr. Luke focuses on the resurrection, which is the center of all Gospel preaching.
 - 8. Peter's theme on the Day of Pentecost was the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Acts 2:22-24**, *Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: **23:** Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: **24:** Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. **Acts 2:30-33**, Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; **31:** He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. **32:** This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. **33:** Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.*
 - 9. Dr. Luke focuses on two apostles in the **Book of Acts**. They are the Apostle Peter in the first section and the Apostle Paul in the second section.
 - 10. These two apostles were God's spokesmen. Peter to the Jews and Paul is for the Gentiles.
- r. There are some key themes in the **Book of Acts**.
 - 1. God will not ask us to do anything without giving us the provisions to do it to excellence.
 - 2. Church growth will be continuous and significant with the Holy Spirit's leadership.
 - 3. It is impossible to live a successful Christian life apart from the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. Christians who are obedient to God's leading will have a

tremendous opportunity to share Christ.

- s. Let's study the **Book of Acts** as God speaks to us through the Apostle Peter in **Acts Chapter 4**.

2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message January 26, 2020

3. SIX POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

h. Neither is there salvation in any other.

1. **Acts 4:12**, **Neither is there salvation in any other:** *for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*
2. We know from the birth of Christ that the angel that was there said in, **Matthew 1:21**, **And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.** **Luke 2:11**, *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*
3. He is either our Saviour in this life or He becomes our judge in the life to come. **Luke 1:46-47**, *And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,* **47:** *And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.* **John 5:22**, *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*
4. There are two judgments. 1. The Great White Throne Judgment which no one should want to go to. 2. The Judgment Seat of Christ where the church will receive rewards for stewardship.
5. Peter makes it very clear that there is none other name under heaven whereby we must be saved. **Acts 4:12**, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*
6. There are many religious people even though religion cannot save.
7. There is no saving grace in emotion, entertainment, music and so forth.
8. Jesus is the one that saves. It is Jesus Christ who has God's blood in His veins that saves mankind. **John 1:29**, **The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**
9. Jesus is God. He shed His blood on Calvary, presented it at the Mercy Seat at the Throne of God, and as a result of that our sins can be forgiven. **John 20:17**, *Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*
10. There is no such thing as baptismal regeneration. There is no power in the waters of baptism. Baptism is only an act of obedience that typifies the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
11. Our designated day for baptism is on the third Sunday of each month. I have said many times if you go into the waters a dry sinner you will come out a wet sinner.
12. The people who have previously been baptized have confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour. That act of obedience puts them in this local church. We praise God for their baptism. **Acts 9:18**, *And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.*
13. There were two ordinances given to the church. Communion, which we

practice on the second Sunday of the month. It is not transubstantiation it is in remembrance of what the Lord has done for us. **1 Corinthians 11:24-25**, *And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25: After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.*

14. The other ordinance given by Jesus to the church is baptism by immersion. **Acts 8:36-38**, *And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37: And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38: And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.*
15. This is a great message that Peter has delivered to the Sanhedrin. Remember the Sadducees are the instigators in all of this because they were against what the Lord Jesus Christ was about.

i. They took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

1. **Acts 4:13**, *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*
2. Notice that these men were unlearned and ignorant according to the smart Sadducees.
3. There was something different about these men.
4. Peter was called by Jesus when he was fishing. There were three calls to these men: **a call to salvation, a test of their obedience** and thirdly they were called **to follow Jesus and propagate the Gospel**.
5. The Sanhedrin picked up that Peter and these men were ignorant and unlearned. **1 Corinthians 2:4**, *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:*
6. When we sell out to the Lord Jesus people think we are fanatical when we believe the Preserved Word of God.
7. We have to stick with the Book. We have no right to do anything but teach and preach what thus saith the Lord.
8. Remember Peter had denied the Lord three times.
9. After Jesus told him that he would deny him three times before the cock crowed, Jesus said **John 14:1-3**, *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2: In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*
10. When you look at the apostles and disciples of Jesus during the time of the crucifixion, we notice that the women were very prevalent.
11. They were there at the tomb; they knew how Jesus' body was laid.
12. During that time where were the apostles? They were hiding for fear of the Jews.

13. Notice now they are bold. This is one of the things that the Sanhedrin and the Sadducees realized. **Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled**
14. Although you may be an unbeliever, you must know there is something supernatural about the Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 1:20**, *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*
15. He came to save my friend. He is the one who provides salvation for a lost and dying world.
16. Adam plunged the whole human race into sin therefore it took the Lord Jesus Christ Himself to come and die for mankind. **Romans 5:12**, *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: Romans 5:18*, *Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*
17. Don't be fooled by the statement when the Lord said "Let this cup pass from me."
18. We must understand that verse also says He came to do the Father's will. **Luke 22:42**, *Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

j. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them.

1. **Acts 4:14-15**, **And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15: But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,**
2. The real stir among these people was the fact that God confirmed His Word by healing.
3. Signs were given to confirm the Word of God. **Mark 16:20**, **And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**
4. They could not say anything against the miracle because he was standing there in the midst.
5. Now they go into what we would call the executive session without the entire world knowing about it.
6. They go in and take council. **But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council,** They dismiss Paul, Peter and John and they confer among themselves.
7. Many of these people were family and friends of the high priest. They are however, moved by what Peter had said to them and what God had done in the midst.
8. When the Word of God is preached unbelievers will do one of two things. They will submit to the authority of God or they will run from God's Word. **Acts 24:25**, *And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee. Acts 26:28*, *Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

k. Saying, What shall we do to these men?

1. **Acts 4:16**, **Saying, What shall we do to these men?** for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.
2. They were not able to deny the miracle.
3. Not even the Pharisees could deny it.
4. Remember how they tried to cover up the resurrection of Jesus Christ to prove the body was stolen away and great sums of money was given to the people to lie about it? **Matthew 28:12-15**, *And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, 13: Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. 14: And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. 15: So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.*
5. We still have people this day in time who are far removed from the place of the miracles and deny them.
6. The liberals of that day are the same as the liberals of this day.
7. They don't know what to do with the miracles so they tamper with the Preserved Word of God and remove the miracles out of the Book.
8. Notwithstanding, the Preserved Word of God will stay forever. **Mark 13:31**, *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*
9. God has set up the entire system on what we believe. You can believe the Book if you want to but if you don't then in Hell you will lift up your eyes.
10. Unbelief is not from a lack of facts; it is a condition of the heart. **Jeremiah 17:9**, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*
11. These people cannot deny the miracles; they know that this man was there in their presence so notice what happens.

l. But that it spread no further among the people.

1. **Acts 4:17-18**, **But that it spread no further among the people**, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. **18:** *And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.*
2. When the Word of God gets into your heart you have to preach and teach it. **Psalms 119:11**, *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.*
3. I am reminded of Jeremiah when he says, **Jeremiah 23:29**, *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?*
4. When Chesswood Baptist Church is filled with the Holy Spirit, we get our eyes off of mess, gossip and off what people are doing and not doing, and then we turn our eyes on our self and examine our own heart. **2 Corinthians 13:5**, *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*
5. We should empty ourselves of worldly things and get into God's mission and what He has called us to do.

6. If you want to fill Chesswood Baptist Church; we can. We need to go out and win them to Christ. We need to teach them. **Acts 2:42**, *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
 7. commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. – These men are threatening the apostles but notice what the apostles say.
- m. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.**
1. **Acts 4:19-22**, *But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. 20: **For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.** 21: So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. 22: For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.*
 2. When you get in tune with God you don't worry about what men think or say.
 3. The Bible says those who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. **2 Timothy 3:12**, *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*
 4. **Psalms 37:23**, *The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*
 5. When God called us and we are surrendered we must speak the things which He has said.
 6. I cannot go to the pulpit without preaching the whole counsel of God.
 7. He has not called me to clean up the pond. He has called me to fish in the pond. We are going to fish as we preach the whole counsel of God. Our entire mission is to get people converted to Christ and spiritually grounded the Word.
 8. This man of forty years old was standing right there with them.
 9. There is further threatening from these men. It tells us that it doesn't make any difference about the threats we may receive. What we have to do is what God has called us to do.
 10. You would think that the men of the Sanhedrin would be softened by this time, but their heart is hard.
 11. They wanted to punish those who were carrying the Word of God.
 12. I have said several times; don't shoot the messenger.

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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