A Study of “The Life of Christ”

Part III

Lesson 1

### Jesus’ Final Sentencing, Crucifixion and Burial

 **(**Matt. 27:14-66; Mark 15:6-47; Luke 23:13-56;John 18:39-19:42)

**Memorize:**

Jesus answered, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given to you from above…”

 John 19:11a (NKJV)

**Keys to Understanding:**

#### Scourge –

Mock –

# Questions:

1. As we begin our lesson today, Jesus is standing before Pilate. What question does Pilate ask the people in John 18:39?
2. Who did the people pick to be released? (John 18:40)
3. In John 19:1, what does Pilate do to Jesus?
4. What do the soldiers do to Jesus next? (John 19:2)
5. In John 19:3, they struck Jesus with their hands and said what?
6. What did the chief priests and officers say when they saw him in verse 6?
7. What did Pilate say in verse 6?

1. In verse 7, the Jews said, “We have a law and according to our law Jesus ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God.” Who had really made Jesus the Son of God?
2. What did Pilate think and do when he heard this in verses 8 and 9?
3. In verse 10, Pilate asks Jesus two more questions. “Are you not speaking to me?” and “Do you not know that I have the power to crucify you or the power to release you? Who did Jesus say had given Pilate this power? (John 19:11a)
4. Pilate wanted to release Jesus, but what did the Jews say in John 19:15a?
5. In John 19:15b, Pilate says, “Shall I crucify your King? What is the chief priests’ answer?
6. Then they took Jesus away to be crucified. Who did they get to help carry Jesus’ cross for Him? (Matt. 27:32)
7. Two others were crucified with Jesus, one on each side and Jesus was in the center. What was the title that Pilate wrote and put on the cross? (John 19:19)
8. What was it that the soldiers did in verses 23 and 24 that had been foretold in the Scripture?
9. Jesus then tells his mother and John that they are to be as mother and son from then on. In verse 28, it says that when Jesus knew that all things had been accomplished, he said what?

1. What did they offer Jesus to drink in John 19: 29?
2. What did Jesus say in verse 30?
3. In verse 32, we see that the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two others that were crucified with Jesus. They did not break Jesus’ legs because they saw that He was already dead. What did they do instead? (John 19: 34)
4. Who came and asked Pilate if he might take the body of Jesus? (John 19:38)
5. In Mark 15:46 where was Jesus laid and what was placed against the door of the tomb?

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Lesson 2

Resurrection & Appearances During 40 Days

 **(**Matthew.28:1-15; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24:1-43;John 20,21)

**Memorize:**

“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen…”

 Matthew 28:5-6a (NKJV)

**Questions:**

1. In Matthew 28:1-8, we see where Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to the tomb. What day was it? (Also see Mark 16:2)
2. There had been a great earthquake and an angel of the Lord had descended from heaven. What did the angel do and what did the guards who saw him do? (Matt. 28:2-4)
3. The woman saw the angel and he spoke to them and said, “Do not be afraid for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified”. Where did the angel say that Jesus was and what did the angel tell the women to do? (Matt. 28:6-7)

1. So the women went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell the disciples. What happened to them along the way? (Matt. 28:8-10)
2. Where did the soldiers go to give their eyewitness account?

 (Matthew 28:11)

1. What did the chief priests and elders decide to do about this?

 (Matt. 28:12-13)

1. What did they tell the guards? (Matt. 28:14)
2. What did the guards do then? (Matt. 28:15)
3. When the women went and told the disciples that Jesus was no

longer in the tomb but that he had risen and that they had seen

Him, how did the apostles react? (Luke 24:10-12)

1. What did Peter and John do? (John 20:2-10)
2. Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week,

when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled,

for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst of them.

What did he show them? (John 20:19-20)

1. We see that Thomas was not with them when Jesus appeared to them.

What did Thomas say when the other apostles told him that they had

seen Jesus? (John 20:24-25)

13. What happened 8 days later? (John 20:26-29)

14. After this we see that Jesus appeared to the disciples again at the Sea

 of Tiberius. How was it that he showed himself to them this time?

 (John 21:1-14)

1. We see in John 20:30-31 that many other signs were done by Jesus

 and recorded in John’s book. Why were they recorded? (John 20:30-31)

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Lesson 3

Ascension and Final Instructions

(Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1)

**Memorize:**

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and

 you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and

 to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

**Keys to Understanding:**

Theophilus – is a man’s name. It means “lover of God.” Luke (the author) may have known a man by this name to whom he addressed the book, or it may be intended for anyone who is a “lover of God.” The Gospel of Luke is also addressed to Theophilus (See Luke 1:3).

A Sabbath’s Day Journey – (vs. 12) approx. 1,000 yards.

**Questions:**

1. In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus tells his disciples, “All authority has been given to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

1. In Mark 16:15-16, Jesus tells his disciples, “\_\_\_\_\_\_ into all the world

and preach the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ creature. He who

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shall be saved; but he

who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ believe will be condemned.

1. Before Jesus leaves the apostles and goes back to heaven, where does

He tell them to go and wait? (Luke 24:49)

1. What does He tell the apostles that they are waiting for? (Luke 24:49)
2. Do we know what the Promise of the Father is? (See Acts 1:4-5)
3. What will the apostles receive from the Holy Spirit? (Acts 1:8)
4. In John 16:13, Jesus told His apostles, “…When He, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 of truth has come, He will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you in to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

1. We see in Acts 1: 9-10, “Now when Jesus spoke these things, while

they watched, He was taken up and a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ received Him

out of their sight.”

1. In Acts 1:14, we see all the apostles continued with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in prayer and supplication.”

1. In Acts 1:15-20, who is Peter talking about?
2. What does Peter say they need to do in Acts 1:21-22?
3. “Therefore of these men who have accompanied us all the time

 that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the

 baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one

 of these must become a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_with us of His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

1. What two men were suggested to take Judas’ place as an apostle?

 (Acts 1:23)

1. What did they do first before they decided which one would

 be picked? (Acts 1:24)

1. What man was chosen as an apostle to replace Judas and who

 actually chose him? (See Acts 1: 24,26)

**Closing Thoughts:**

Some modern churches claim to have apostles who are successors of the original twelve. Yet Peter said that the one to succeed Judas had to be one who was a “witness with us of His resurrection” (Acts 1:22). No modern apostle would meet this requirement.

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Lesson 4

 Church Established

(Acts 2)

**Memorize:**

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

 Acts 2:38 (NKJV)

**Keys to Understanding:**

Pentecost – the day of Pentecost was one of the three feast days observed by the Jews. They came to Jerusalem from many parts of the world for these feasts. The Pentecost in this 2nd chapter of Acts was 50 days after the Passover when Jesus was crucified.

“Third Hour of the Day” – is referring to 9:00 a.m.

Questions:

1. Does the text indicate that we are in the same day or possibly

 a different day?

2. Who is referred to as “they” in verse 1? (Hint: Who did

 Jesus make the promise to?)

1. When the apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit:
2. What was heard?
3. What was seen?
4. When the Jews heard the apostles speak, what made them realize that something unusual was going on?

5. Are there any examples in the Bible where it was anything

 other than an actual earthly language?

6. What would the city of Jerusalem have been like during

 Pentecost?

1. Who stood up in verse 14?
2. Peter tells them in vs. 14 to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What was Peter assuring them of in vs. 15-16?

Peter then recounts to the crowd exactly what they are guilty of concerning Jesus’ death and showed them that it had all been according to God’s plan. He proved it by prophecy, by eye-

witness testimony of the apostles and by the Holy Spirit which Jesus had poured out from heaven.

11. In verse 24 and again in verse 30, who does Peter say gave

 Jesus' power to overcome death?

12. Do we read of the prophesy about Christ being raised

 up to sit on David’s throne in the Old Testament?

 (2 Samuel 7:12)

13. In verse 37, after the Jews were told exactly who they had

 crucified, it says that they were “cut to the heart”. What do

 you think that means?

14. What question did the people that heard this message ask

 the apostles?

15. What were they told to do and for what reason?

16. What does “in the name of Jesus Christ” mean?

17. How does Joel say a man can be saved? (Acts 2:21)

In verse 41, the 3000 souls that gladly received Peter’s words were baptized and were added to them.

1. What were they being added to? (verse 47)

19. Who added them to the church?

20. What did they continue to do? (See vs. 42 for 4 things)

Closing Thoughts:

People who claim to speak in tongues today amaze their hearers because they speak in words that their hearers cannot understand. They claim it is a special language between them and the Holy Spirit. In the book of Acts, those who spoke in tongues amazed their hearers because they were speaking in a language that could be understood by all that heard them speak—not jibberish. (See Acts 2:5-11). In light of the vast difference between the “jibberish tongue-speaking” of today and the “actual language, tongue-speaking” examples of the Bible, we must conclude that the tongue-speaking that people are claiming to be speaking today, is something altogether different than that which was done in the New Testament, and are, therefore, false.

Many preachers today say there is nothing one can do to be forgiven of sins, or that belief is the only requirement. In Acts 2:38, Peter said, “Repent and be baptized for the remission of sin.”

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Lesson 5

 Peter & John’s Ministry

(Acts 3:1 – 4:31)

Memorize:

Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

 Acts 3:6 (NKJV)

Keys to Understanding:

Temple – The very beautiful building which dominated the city of Jerusalem and served as the center of worship for all the Jews. It was surrounded by a very large plaza in which the people gathered, especially at the hours of morning and evening sacrifice.

Solomon’s Porch – A very large columned porch or roofed area at the eastern end of the temple plaza. Here, thousands could gather protected from the sun or the rain.

Sadducees – A sect of the Jews who did not believe that the dead could be raised (Acts 2:38). Many of the priests were Sadducees.

The High Priest and Council – Although the Jews were under the Roman Empire and Judea was occupied by the Roman army, the Romans did allow a limited degree of self-government. As the highest official of the Jews, the high priest presided over a council of elders who judged matters pertaining to Jewish law. Annas, Caiphas and the council were the same men who tried Jesus and condemned Him.

Captain of the Temple – The Romans allowed the Jews to maintain a small group of soldiers as a temple guard. The captain was the commander of those soldiers. These were the men who had earlier arrested Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Questions:

Chapter 3: 1-10

1. In verse 1, we find Peter and John going to the temple to pray. What was the lame man asking for?
2. How long had he been lame? (vs. 2)
3. In verse 6, we see the first recorded miracle after the apostles are given the Holy Spirit. Peter performs the miracle in whose name (by whose authority)?
4. What does he tell the man to do? (vs. 6)
5. In verses 7-8, it says, “…immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength and he leaped up, walking and praising God.” How does this description differ from the way we have seen miracles portrayed in some of the movies or by some evangelists?

Peter uses the attention that this brought to them, once again, to preach to the people about how they had crucified Jesus and were guilty of His blood in verses 13-26. He reminds them of the prophecies in the Old Testament and that Jesus was a fulfillment of these prophesies when He died on the cross.

Read verses 11 – 26

1. Peter said that the people should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that their sins might be blotted out (wiped away). (verse 19)
2. According to verse 22, Moses said God would raise up a prophet. How were they to receive His words?
3. What was to be done to anyone who would not hear him? (vs. 23)

Read Chapter 4:1-31

1. Who was disturbed by their preaching and why? (vs.1-2)
2. What did they do to Peter and John? (vs. 3)
3. Who does it say met together on the next day?
4. What question did they have for Peter and John? (vs. 7)
5. Peter again preaches to this group. In verse 11, what does Peter call Jesus and whom does Peter say Jesus was rejected by?
6. It dawns on them in vs. 13 that these 2 men, Peter and John, had been with Jesus. Why do you suppose this did not make the elders and scribes want to hear more from Peter and John?
7. What kind of effect did the things that the elders and scribes heard and saw from Peter have on them?

As we can see, the gospel (the good news about Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection) has always had a great effect on people from the very beginning. Once a person hears the gospel, they are moved to some form of action:

 Either, they will receive it

 Or

 They will reject it!

Many times when people do not receive the gospel, they set out to discredit it. They feel that if they can discredit the gospel, then they can justify their reason for “rejecting” it. In Acts 3:17, we see how these elders and scribes went to great lengths in order to keep this information from spreading among the people. They agreed among themselves that a miracle had been performed, and it was unable to be explained away. And yet, the text says that they sought diligently to cover it up after “rejecting” it themselves.

1. What was the plan to keep this from spreading among the people? (vs 17)
2. What was Peter and John’s response to their threats? (vs. 19-20)
3. In verse 21, it says that they let Peter and John go “because of the people”. What do you think they would have done if the people had not been there?
4. When Peter and John went back, what did they do? (vs. 24-30)
5. When Peter and John returned to their companions, what two things did they ask God to do for them? (vs. 29)
6. Did they receive what they asked for? (vs. 31)

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Lesson 6

 Ananias & Sapphira; Apostles Persecuted; 7 Chosen

(Acts 4:32 – 6:6)

Memorize:

But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

 Acts 4:19-20 (NKJV)

**Keys to Understanding:**

Pharisees – A sect of the Jews who were specialists in the Old Testament. They believed in angels, in spirits and in future resurrection. This put them in opposition to the Sadducees who denied these things (See Acts 23:8). They opposed Jesus during His lifetime because He rejected their traditions and interpretations.

Gamaliel – a famous Pharisee rabbi who was also a member of the Jewish council or supreme court.

Theudas and Judas – leaders who had gathered small bands of revolutionaries in unsuccessful attempts to overthrow the rule of Rome in their land.

**Questions:**

1. In the last few verses of Chapter 4, we see where believers were selling their houses and land and bringing the proceeds and laying them at the apostles’ feet to be distributed to those in need. Was it a requirement to sell their possessions and give ALL of their money to the apostles to be used by those in need?

Chapter 5

1. If it wasn’t a requirement to give all of their money, what was Ananias and Sapphira’s sin? (See verses 4 and 9)
2. What was the punishment they received? What effect did it have on the church?
3. In verse 12 it mentions that through the apostles’ hands many signs and wonders were done and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch? What does “all with one accord mean”? See Ephesians 4:4-6; Phil. 2:2; 2 Peter 1:2
4. When looking at verses 14-16, what seems to be the initial motivation of the people seeking after the apostles? Also see Acts 8:6?
5. What was the outcome of people bringing the sick to the apostles?
6. How were the high priest and those with them feeling about the apostles and what did they do about it?
7. After the angel of the Lord let them out of prison, where did the apostles go?
8. Why were they wanting to bring the apostles back without violence?
9. What had the apostles been told not to do?
10. What did they say that the apostles had done?
11. What was the apostles’ response?
12. What did the apostles say was the purpose of Jesus’ death?
13. What did the apostles call themselves in vs. 32?
14. Vs. 33 says when they heard this, they were furious. Why would they be mad instead of grieved by learning the truth about what they had done?
15. Read 2 Tim. 2:24-26. What was the result of knowing the truth in these verses?
16. In John 8:31-32 Jesus says, “If you \_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

You are My disciples indeed AND you shall know the \_\_\_\_\_

and the truth shall set you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. So according to John 8:3-32, you shall know the truth if you do what?
2. In Acts 5:34 who begins speaking to the high priest and the rest of the Jews?
3. What did he suggest that they do? (vs. 38-39)
4. After agreeing with Gameliel, what did the council do next?

(vs. 40)

1. In vs. 41 it says the believers of Jesus rejoiced. Why?
2. In vs. 41-42 it says daily and in every house the apostles did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ. Are we ever called to suffer for Jesus’ name?
3. What did the apostles continue to do even after being threatened?
4. What were they hoping that preaching the truth daily and in every house would produce?
5. Did they promise the Jewish leaders to be more subdued in their approach to teaching the truth in the future?

Chapter 6:1-6

1. What was the apostles’ concern about helping the widows?
2. What was their solution?
3. What did this leave the apostles more time to do?
4. Who was chosen for this task?
5. In vs. 6 what did the apostles do after praying for these chosen men?

**Closing Thoughts:**

Even though we are not under the Old Law today, it is our tutor.

(See Gal. 3:24 and Colossians 2:14.) There are many threads that begin in the Old Testament and that keep their meaning throughout the Bible and into the New Testament, i.e., giving reverence to God, obeying and following God, instead of our own ways or ideas, etc.

God’s character, too, is a thread of consistency seen throughout the Bible. We can learn from his reactions to sins committed by those in the Old and New Testament. We can see that God is a just God and cannot turn His head when people sin. In sending Jesus, His only son, He gave us a way to be reconciled to God and receive remission of our sins. This, however, does not change the very character of God and His inability to dwell where sin is. As we saw in our study of this chapter in Acts with God’s dealings of Ananias and Sapphira, God still hates sin and if we remain in sin, it will separate us from God. (See 1 John 1: 5-10).

Taking advantage of the plan of salvation that God has provided for us, brings us back to Him. (See 1 John 1:7). Many people today preach the love of God, which is, of course, true. Many times they leave out the justice of God because it makes us feel uncomfortable or perhaps, that God is harsh. However, we should look at the whole character of God if we want to truly come to know and serve Him. Upon studying the Old and New Testament, it is seen that God is a faithful God because He always keeps His promises. In keeping His promises, God appears as the loving God that He is when he cares for those who obey Him. To those who choose not to, the same God can appear to be harsh and uncaring, because once again, God is keeping His promise of separating Himself from sin. God is the same and is unchanging. Whether we will see Him as loving God or as being harsh and uncaring depends on how we respond to him. Will we obey His words or reject them?

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Lesson 7

Stephen’s Ministry

(Acts 6:7 – 8)

**Memorize:**

“And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, Lord

 Jesus, receive my spirit.”

 Acts 7:59 (NKJV)

**Keys to Understanding:**

#### Hebrews or Aramaic Speaking Jews – Those who lived in Judea or Galilee and were in their own country. The local Aramaic language was their primary language.

Hellenists - Greek speaking Jews

Synagogue – A place where Jews met for worship, especially on the Sabbath. They were very much like simple church buildings with a pulpit for the reader or speaker and benches for the listeners. There was only one temple in all the world, but there were many synagogues, even in Jerusalem.

**Questions:**

1. In vs. 8 what were these men able to do now because of this laying on of hands?
2. Weren’t they already full of the Holy Spirit? (vs. 3) What enabled Stephen to do the signs and wonders in vs. 8?
3. Vs. 7 talks again about how the Word of God was spreading. It says the number of disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem and who else does it mention being obedient to the faith?
4. Using a dictionary, define the word disciple. How were these disciples different from the men that were chosen by Jesus to be the apostles?
5. What problem was Stephen having in vs. 9?
6. What do you think it means when it says in vs. 10, “They were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke.”
7. How did these people respond to the truth?
8. Why did they have to “secretly induce” men to say that Stephen spoke blasphemous words?
9. In verse 15 it says, all who sat in the council, when they looked upon Stephen, saw his face as the face of an angel. What do you think that means?

# Chapter 7

**Keys to Understanding:**

Covenant of Circumcision – An agreement between God and Abraham in which God promised to make Abraham’s descendants a great nation, give them the land of Canaan and be their God. As a sign of their acceptance of God’s offer, all of the males in Abraham’s family were to be circumcised on the 8th day (See Gen. 17:1-14).

Mt. Sinai - A mountain in Arabia where Moses received the ten commandments and other instructions which made up the Old Testament law which was given to Abraham’s descendants.

Tabernacle – A movable tent-like structure which was constructed at Mt. Sinai for use as a place of worship while the Israelites were on the move. It served until the temple was built in Jerusalem.

Stephen finally gets an opportunity to speak. The high priest asks him whether the things he is accused of are so. Stephen answers with a sermon in which he reminds them of their Jewish past, beginning with Abraham and continuing on through Solomon, before addressing the accusations that have been made against him.

**Questions:**

1. When Stephen recounts some of the Jewish history, who does he say that God told to leave his own country and go to a land that God would show him?
2. What did God give to Abraham before his son, Isaac and his grandson, Jacob was born? (vs. 8)
3. How many sons did Jacob have? (vs. 8)
4. Which of Jacob’s sons was sold into slavery? (vs. 9)
5. What position of power did Joseph receive from Pharaoh? (vs. 10)
6. In verse 17, we see that another king arose in Egypt that did not know Joseph and the Israelites were in bondage. Who did God raise up to lead the Israelites out of Egypt? (vs. 34)
7. After Moses led them out, how did the Israelites rebel against God when Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving the 10 Commandments?
8. In vs. 52 Stephen tells them that their ancestors have already persecuted the prophets. What does Stephen call the people in vs. 51 and what did he accuse them of?
9. In verse 54 it says, “when they heard these things, they were cut to the

 heart.” Where have we seen people being cut to the heart before in Acts

 and how did their response differ from these people’s response?

1. In verse 55 it says, “Stephen, being full of the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ gazed into

Heaven and saw the glory of God and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ standing at the \_\_\_\_\_\_

Hand of God.

1. What happened in verse 59-60?

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Lesson 8

Philip’s Ministry

###  (Acts 8)

**Memorize:**

And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

 Acts 8: 36b-37 (NKJV)

# Keys to Understanding:

Samaria: The province which joined Judea on the North. Jesus asked that the gospel be preached there (See Acts 1:8).

Sorcery: The use of magic with a claim to divine or supernatural powers. Simon’s “miracles” were fake.

Eunuch: A word sometimes used to describe any male official on the staff of a Queen.

##### Questions:

1. Why was the church scattered as we see in verse 1?
2. Who were the only Christians left in Jerusalem? (verse 2)
3. What does verse 3 say that Saul continued to do?
4. What did those Christians that scattered continue to do?
5. Who was Philip in verse 5? (Hint: See Acts 6:5)
6. When Philip was preaching Christ and healing the sick in Samaria, what did the people there do when they believed the things he was preaching? (Acts 8:12)
7. What did this man called Simon doing in this city? (verse 9)
8. When Simon heard Philip preach, what did he do? (verse 13)
9. After the Samaritans believed and were baptized, when did they receive the Holy Spirit? (vs. 17)
10. Why was Simon interested in receiving the Holy Spirit? (vs. 19)
11. Who did he offer money to so that he could also receive it? (18-19)
12. Why didn’t he ask Philip for the Holy Spirit, didn’t he also have the power to do signs and miracles? (vs. 13) (Hint: Remember, this in not Philip, the apostle)
13. What was Peter’s reply to Simon? (vs.20-23)
14. In verse 26 an angel spoke to Philip and told him to go where?
15. Who does he meet and what was he doing? (vs. 27-28)
16. What does Philip do? (vs. 29-30)
17. What was the Eunuch’s answer to Philip’s question?
18. When Philip preached Jesus to him and the Eunuch believed, what does he want to do? (vs. 36)

**Closing Thoughts:**

Many people teach today that one can receive the power to perform miracles today. In this chapter we see that the ability to do healing did not come upon the Samaritans until the Apostles came and laid hands on them.

Also, many today claim to baptize by sprinkling water from a small basin. In this chapter we see that both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water before the baptism and came up out of the water afterwards.

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Lesson 9

**Saul’s Conversion**

**(Acts 9)**

**Memorize:**

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

 Acts 22:16 (NKJV)

##### Keys to Understanding:

Damascus: Capitol city of Syria. It was about 140 miles from Jerusalem.

Tarsus: Saul’s home city, located on the southeast coast of what is now Turkey.

**Questions:**

1. What did Saul want from the High Priest and why? (verse 2)
2. On his way to Damascus to persecute more Christians, what happened?

(verses 3-4)

1. Did Saul know who was speaking to him, why or why not? (verse 5)
2. What question does Saul ask Jesus in verse 6?
3. In verse 6 Jesus tells Paul to go into the city, and you will be told what?
4. As you know, later in our study, Saul then Paul, becomes a great apostle. Review the Acts 1:22 (the requirements for becoming an apostle). What must an apostle be a witness of?
5. When Saul was blind and they led him to Damascus, what did he do? (vs. 9-11)
6. Ananias was concerned for his own safety. What did Jesus tell Ananias about Saul? (verse 13 - 15)
7. Read verse 17. Ananias goes to Saul and tells him that Jesus had sent him to lay hands on him so that he would be filled with the Holy Spirit. We are not told anything else in the text as to what Saul was told. What did Saul do immediately, putting aside his own physical needs in verse 18?

Read Acts 22:6-18. Here Saul/ Paul is telling of his experience on the road to Damascus to the mob of Jews in Jerusalem. Let’s see what else happened.

1. What does he ask Jesus? (Acts 22:10)
2. What was Jesus’ answer? (Acts 22:10)
3. What is Saul told to do in Acts 22:16?
4. Back in Acts 9, What problem did Saul have when he tried to join the disciples in Jerusalem? (verse 26-27)
5. Who encouraged the church at Jerusalem to receive Saul and where have we seen him before? (verse 27)
6. Where did Saul go to escape from the Hellenists? (verse 30)
7. In what area did churches exist by this time? (verses 30-31)
8. At Joppa, there was a certain disciple named \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, also called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This woman was full of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and charitable deeds which she did. (verse 36)
9. What happened to her? (verse 37)
10. What did they show Peter in verse 39?
11. Describe what Peter did? (verse 40)

##### Closing Thoughts:

Some churches often delay baptism for weeks or even months after a person decides that they want to confess Jesus as the Son of God. In Acts 2, we see that those that believed on the day of Pentecost were baptized the same day. In this chapter, even though Saul had been without food for 3 days, he was baptized immediately, even before he took food.

A Study of “The Life of Jesus”

Part III

**Lesson 10**

**Peter’s Ministry**

**(Acts 10)**

 **Memorize:**

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows

 no partiality. But in every nation, whoever fears Him and works righteous-

 ness is accepted by Him.”

 Acts 10: 34-35

**Keys to Understanding:**

Cornelius: An officer (Centurion) in the Roman Army. Up until this time, all of the people who were converted to Jesus were Jews. Cornelius was the first Gentile (non-Jew) convert.

Unclean Meats: The Law of Moses (in the Old Testament) required the Jews to avoid certain meat such as pork. It also required separation from the Gentiles. In teaching Peter by a vision that the meats were no longer to be avoided, God showed him that no people were to be avoided. (vs. 28)

**Questions:**

1. Cornelius loved and prayed to God always, and yet, we read that the angel of God tells him to send for Peter. Why? (vs. 6)
2. Did Cornelius do as he had been instructed?
3. Meanwhile, Peter is in the city of Joppa and he also sees a vision. What does he see and hear?
4. While Peter wonders about the meaning of his vision, who has found his way to Peter’s gate?
5. The following day, when they enter Caesarea, Cornelius and who else was waiting for Peter?
6. What does Cornelius do when Peter enters into the room?
7. What does Peter tell him?
8. What is the reason that Cornelius tells Peter that he has been called to come before them? (vs. 33)
9. Peter tells them the story of Jesus. While he was still speaking, what happened? (vs. 44)

10.Why were those Jews who were already Christians so

 astonished?

11.What are those that had received the Holy Spirit commanded to

 do in verse 48?

**Closing Thoughts:**

Many today believe that if a person lives a good life and prays to God, that he will be saved. In this chapter, we see that even a man as good as Cornelius had to learn of Jesus and obey Him, in order to be saved.

A Study of “The Life of Jesus”

Part III

**Lesson 11**

 Cornelius’ Conversion

**(Acts 11)**

**Memorize:**

#### “When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified

 God, saying, Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance

 to life.”

 Acts 11:18 (NKJV)

##### Keys to Understanding:

“Circumcised Believers” – Jewish believers. Descendants of Abraham who were under God’s covenant of circumcision were God’s special people UNTIL Jesus came and gave a new covenant for all nations. It was difficult for Jews to accept uncircumcised Gentiles as equals just because they said they believed in Jesus.

Antioch – A city approximately 300 miles north of Jerusalem, after Rome and Alexandria the most important city in the Roman Empire. The Greeks converted there formed the first Gentile church.

##### Questions:

1. When Peter returned to Jerusalem, what did the apostles and rest of the brethren ask him? (verse 3)
2. Be prepared to summarize the incident that Peter experienced on top of his roof.
3. This happened three times and then 3 men stood before the house where Peter was. What did the Spirit tell Peter to do then?

1. What happened next? (vs. 13)
2. As Peter explained everything that happened, what does Peter say the angel told Cornelius that Peter would give them? (vs. 14)
3. After Peter explained everything that had happened, what did they say? (vs. 18)
4. The gospel had now spread as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch.

Who did they send to go out to Antioch? (vs. 22)

1. Where did he go when he was finished there? (vs. 25)
2. When he found Paul he brought him back to Antioch and they taught a great many people there. In verse 26 it says that the disciples were first called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Antioch.
3. When prophets came and told that there was going to be a famine throughout all the world, what did the disciples decide to do?
4. Where did they get the money and who did they send it to?

**Closing Thoughts:**

Many times today churches have special events in order to raise money from those outside the church to give to needy brethren. In this chapter we see that it was the disciples themselves that gave the money that was sent to brethren in need.

A Study of “The Life of Jesus”

Part III

**Lesson 12**

**The Antioch Church; Persecution by Herod**

 **(Acts 12)**

**Memorize:**

And when Peter had come to himself he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people.”

Acts 12: 11

##### Keys to Understanding:

Herod - One of a family of Herods who reigned as kings under the Roman government in Palestine. This Herod was a grandson of the Herod who attempted to murder the baby Jesus, and a nephew of the Herod who beheaded John the Baptist and tried Jesus. His cruelty is seen in this chapter.

Mary, Mother of John Mark - This Mary was an aunt of Barnabas.

Tyre and Sidon - Cities of Phoenicia. They were hemmed in by the sea on the west and high mountains on the east and had little farmland. This explains their dependence on Herod’s country for food.

##### Questions:

1. Who do we find persecuting the Christians at the beginning of this chapter and who, in particular, did he kill? (vs. 1-2)
2. Who else was arrested and put in prison and why? (vs. 3)
3. What was the church doing while Peter was in prison? (vs. 5)
4. Who visited Peter while he was in prison and what happened? (vs. 7)
5. What did Peter think was happening? (vs. 9)
6. When Peter came to himself, where did he go? (vs. 11)
7. Did all the brethren there praying believe Rhoda when she said that Peter was at the door? Who did they decide was really there? (vs. 15)
8. After they finally opened the door, what did Peter tell them to do?

 (vs. 17)

1. What happened the next day when Herod had the prison searched and they could not find Peter? (vs. 19)
2. When Herod gave a speech for the people at Tyre and Sidon, what did the people keep shouting? (vs. 22)
3. What happened to Herod at that point? ( vs. 23-24)
4. Verse 24 says, “But the word of God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. When Barnabas and Saul returned to Antioch, who did they take with them?

**Closing Thoughts for Acts 1-12**

The most talked about church up to this point has been the church in Jerusalem. From this point on there will be a change and the focus of the attention will be on the church at Antioch. In these first 12 chapters of Acts, the apostle Peter and his works have been recorded. Beginning in the next chapter and throughout the rest of the Book of Acts, the works of the apostle Paul and those he taught (the Gentiles) will be seen. Up until now the gospel has been spread through Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria and predominantly to the Jews. From Acts 13 and forward, we will see the gospel spread to the uttermost part of the earth and predominantly to the Gentiles.

In our next class period, there will be a review of Lessons 1-12. Be prepared to actively participate in this review by answering questions over the 12 Lessons of this quarter.