

LESSON 2: ACTS 1

FEBRUARY 17, 2016

OVERVIEW

- . Preparation for Pentecost by forty days of instruction – Acts 1:1-8
- . Preparation for Pentecost by the ascension of Jesus – Acts 1:9-11
- . Preparation for the Pentecost by prayer – Acts 1:12-26

PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST BY FORTY DAYS OF INSTRUCTION

ACTS 1:1-8

- . Risen Lord instructs the disciples in several ways over a forty-day period
 - . During the forty days, immediately following the resurrection, there are twelve known historical accounts of eyewitnesses to the risen Christ
 - . Eight of those accounts involved at least one of the disciples
 - . Six of those accounts included the majority of the disciples and time of concentrated instruction
 - . Christ talks about the relationship of the Old Testament to Himself Acts 1:1-2, Luke 24:44-49
 - . Jesus instructs the disciples on the true significance of the cross and resurrection – Isaiah 53:4-12
 - . The sacrificial system, set up by God, and given to His people while living under the law, was designed to allow for an atonement for one's sins and a way back in to God's good grace
 - . Through heart felt atonement, people could better come to know the true condition of their heart despite their inability to be obedient to the law
 - . Christ's crucifixion represents the perfect atonement, demonstrated by His victory over death, through His resurrection
 - . This period between the resurrection and Christ's ascension, gives Christ a chance to instruct the disciples on something they have now been an eye witness to, before he leaves them
 - . Although Christ shared this wisdom with them before his death, they were confused
 - . Now this instruction gave Peter and the others the understanding they needed to be able to build from
- . Christ was very clear about waiting until the gift of the Holy Spirit arrives, before they go out and begin their ministry – Acts 1:4-5
 - . Although the disciples now knew the risen Christ, they were still not in possession of the Holy Spirit

- . They were still the same weak men as before
- . In the presence of the risen Christ, the Holy Spirit was with them, but not yet in them
- . Jesus explained that just as John baptized people outwardly with water, The Holy Spirit would baptize people inwardly
 - . Prior to Pentecost, there was no way for a person, with a heart for God to be cleansed inwardly
- . When Christ, through the person of the Holy Spirit, comes to indwell a person, it is forever – John 14:16
 - . This marks the beginning of one's journey, not the end
 - . At the moment of this indwelling, we now have the power to be as Holy as God, yet we are just babes in need of much nourishment
 - . Sin stills lives within us, but not we have a force greater than sin, that also lives within us
 - . It continues to be a daily struggle where we need to decide who we are going to serve

PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST BY THE ASCENSION OF JESUS – ACTS 1: 9-11

- . The connection of the ascension of Jesus with the coming of the Holy Spirit
 - . Jesus needs to be glorified, through the ascension – John 16:7
 - . The Lord will now sit, as an advocate, at the right hand of God
 - . Christ's words seem to imply that it is important that He must enter heaven itself before the Holy Spirit could enter the hearts of Christians
- . The connection between the ascension and the second coming
 - . Although Christ made it clear that even He didn't know the timing of His return, the angels that appeared told them His return would be in the same glorious fashion as his ascension
- . The underlining message here is that we need to be alert and prepared for nobody knows when it will happen, but it will come with no other warning, like a thief in the night
 - . The subject of Christ's return is so important that one in every twenty verses of the New Testament refers directly to it

PREPARATION FOR PENTECOST BY PRAYER – ACTS 1:12-26

- . Between the ascension and Pentecost, the disciples prayed earnestly
 - . They were obedient to Christ's command and waited in Jerusalem for ten days

- . There were roughly 120 people gathered in the “room”
 - . They prayed continually, interspersed with some speaking and some organizational procedures
 - . Although Christ promised the Holy Spirit to believers He instructed them to ask God, through prayer, for this gift
 - . God knows what’s on our hearts but still wants us to come to him with our petitions
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- . The disciples also needed to prayer for the replacement of Judas
 - . After time of considerable prayer they choose Matthias

NEXT LESSON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016 – ACTS 2