

Acts 2:1-4 The Birth of the Early Church

Back in the days when dads were not allowed in the delivery rooms during birth - had to wait in the lobby

A) There were 3 dads patiently waiting in a Hospital in Minnesota for their wives to give birth

B) Mr. Smith - Congrats - wife Twins - Amazing I work for the Minnesota twins –

C) 10 minutes later - Nurse - Mr. Jones - Congrats - triplets – 3 M company

D) 3rd Guy gets up and starts to walk out – the other two where are you going.....7-up

Births are awesome! – Highlight in my life – like most dads – the birth of my three children.

A) Now my 3 grand children - New life - so precious - so amazing - so frail.

B) We have come to Acts chapter 2 - where we are going to see one of the most incredible births in the history of births

C) The day the Church of Jesus Christ was born – Day of Pentecost

1) Not 2 or 3 or even 7 – try 3,000 souls were born into the family of God

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. 7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt

and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.” 12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”

13 Others mocking said, “They are full of new wine.”

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.

9am - so 16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Pause - Peter preaches about Jesus - - You crucified {Come back to this next week - But I want to skip to the result

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ 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. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

Pray

The book of ACTS is about what Jesus did

As we come to Acts 2- I want you to know that this chapter is so important! That Acts chapter 2 is huge.

A) It is huge in regards to what the Church is.

B) It's huge in regards as to what its mission is.

1) It's huge in regards as to what its message is.

C) Chapter 2 answers the questions - How did the Church come into being?

D) How did the Church carry out its mission and proclaim its message?

This chapter answers the question

A) How has the Church survived, and not only survived, but thrived over the ages?

B) And the answer to each of those questions - it's very simple; it's one word Name- Jesus!

C) Acts chapter 2 reminds us this was a work of God and not MAN!

D) The world was turned upside down - society was transformed - **not thru clever programs, or strategic strategies or slick marketing**

E) It was a work of God - **it was done through the Spirit of God empowering the people of God!**

A) Jesus did something TO the first Christians.

- He did something IN the first Christians.
- He did something THROUGH the first Christians.

B) And what Jesus did TO them, and IN them, and THROUGH them -

1) we need him to do TO us, and IN us, and THROUGH us

C) If we are going to be the church

D) THE FOLLOWERS of Jesus that we are meant to be at this critical time in the history of the world

Three big ideas today

#1 God doesn't do anything by chance.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

A) God never does anything by chance. Nothing is ever left to accident with God.

B) He is very deliberate. He is very intentional.

1) He knows the end from the very beginning. And He set things in order.

C) So Why did the Lord Choose to have this happen on Pentecost?

In our through the Bible study on Wednesday nights - when we were going through the OT - we learned that there is a calendar of Jewish feasts.

A) We saw that these religious feasts mentioned in Leviticus 23, all pointed forward to the work of Jesus

B) Paul writes in - Colossians 2:17

“These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

C) Think of it this way - Shadows do not exist by themselves, do they?

D) If you see a shadow on the ground, there must be substance casting the shadow.

1) Without that substance, there is no shadow.

All of these feasts that were a part of Israel's, History and tradition were you a shadow of things to come.

A) They all pointed to Jesus - because Jesus is the substance.

B) When Jesus shows up on planet earth this begins to make sense

C) Take the First feast was Passover - commemorates when the Angel of death passed over Egypt - 1) killing the first born in every house

D) Accept for the houses that had the blood of a lamb - Passover lamb - 1) sprinkled on the door post of the home

E) For 2,000 years the Jews celebrated that event - part of their tradition

Jesus shows up - John the Baptist announced him - Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29

Passover - pictures the death of Jesus as the Lamb of God.

A) 1 Corinthians 5:7 tells us that - **“Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.”**

B) Passover was followed by the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

1) Leaven is equated to sin in the bible - a little leaven spreads - affects the whole loaf

C) The feast of Unleavened bread pointed to Jesus as the sinless Son of God.

Next was the Feast of First fruits.

A) And in the Feast of First fruits they brought in the first of what was to be their full harvest.

B) The Feast of First fruits took place on the day after Sabbath following Passover

1) Which means that the Feast of First fruits was always on the first day of the week.

C) Why is that significant? How is that a shadow of Christ?

The Feast of First fruits was looking forward to the resurrection of Jesus.

A) When Jesus came out of the grave on that first Easter morning - **it was the first day of the week following Passover**

B) 1 Corinthians 15:20- He was the **"first fruits"** of a great harvest of those who through faith in Him would rise from the grave to never die!

After the feast of First fruits that signified the resurrection of Jesus - came the feast of Pentecost also called the feast of weeks

A) "Pentecost" means *"fiftieth"* - This feast was held fifty days after the Feast of First fruits

B) So what we are reading here in Acts 2 happens fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus.

C) Now the Jewish rabbis taught that the feast of Pentecost pointed to the day that Moses - came down from Mt Sinai - 10 commandments

D) So it commemorated the day that the Old Covenant was given.

The message of the OLD COV was DO!

A) Follow these commandments and you will be blessed by God. Do these things and you will live!

B) The problem was mankind was not able to consistently follow the old covenant -

1) Man's failure to keep the commandments left us doomed and damned - in need of help

C) Paul would write in Galatians - that was the purpose of the law -

1) to show us that we couldn't make it - could achieve righteousness by our actions

D) But the prophets spoke of a New Covenant that God was going to establish - coming of Messiah

The message of the OC was Do - but the message of the New COV was Done!

A) The Victory cry of Jesus from the Cross!!! - FINISHED!

B) Paul in the book of Romans spoke of a righteousness that would come that would be apart from the law.

1) THROUGH FAITH in the finished work of JESUS

C) The Prophet Ezekiel spoke this New Covenant in this way: God's promise

²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Ezekiel 36:26-27

D) The Defining mark - would be the giving of the HS - I will put my spirit in you -

1) and he will cause you - empower you to keep my statutes and do them

So Prior to Jesus showing up the feast of Pentecost was commemorating the giving of the Law the OC.

A) But the Feast of Pentecost, was not only commemorating the giving of the Law,

B) But it was looking forward to and anticipating what would transpire fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus

C) God would pour out his Spirit as a manifestation that the New Covenant had begun.

1) The Church of JESUS CHRIST IS GOING TO BE BORN

Now check this out. The Scriptures are so wonderful.

A) On the day that the Law came down from Sinai - in Exodus 32:28 - **3,000 people died on the day that the Law came down from Sinai in Exodus 32.**

B) Here on the day of Pentecost - in Acts 2 - we are going to see that 3,000 people were saved.

1) What a contrast!

C)The Law comes down - 3,000 die.

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit comes down
- and 3,000 people are saved.

D)This is amazing in light of Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians.

“⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.” 2 Corinthians 3:5-6

The Law comes down and we see death.

A)The Holy Spirit comes down - and we see life.

B)God doesn't do anything by chance - precise - to fulfill scripture - make it obvious

1)This is in accordance with my plan

Quite frankly **Big idea #2 Obedience leads to blessings.**

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

A)**One accord** = one heart -They shared the same heart, the same love for Jesus.

B) UNITY - interdependent TOGETHER

C)They were in the same place concerning obedience to Jesus.

1)One heart in their obedience to Jesus

Jesus **COMMANDED** them back (not a suggestion) in chapter 1:4 - don't depart from Jerusalem *Stay here in Jerusalem.*” Wait for the promise of the father

A)that didn't make a whole lot of sense practically for them to be in Jerusalem

B)Dangerous - still opposition - Claiming he had risen

1) Hostility toward the follower of Jesus claiming he was risen

C)Made so much more sense for them to go to Galilee - more rural - less city not as big -

1)the religious POLICE was not there

D)But they stayed in Jerusalem because Jesus told them to stay and wait

E)One accord - one heart - that said -Out of our Love for you - belief in you -

1)Whatever you say Jesus we are going to do.

So they were waiting there 120 people in an upper room. That is when this happened.

²And **suddenly** there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

There were three Manifestations that accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

A)The first - there came **a sound from heaven, as of** a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting

B)Note: It wasn't a mighty rushing wind - it was the sound of a wind -

1)this word sound is used in Luke 21:25 to speak of the roar of the sea

Wind in Scripture is symbolic of the Holy Spirit

A)This sound from heaven let them know that something was happening that they couldn't see with their physical eyes,

B)But it was related to the person of the Holy Spirit, 1)It was a manifestation of the Holy Spirit being poured out on the disciples.

The second Manifestation of the Holy Spirit was v.3 there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them

A)Again, not literal fire, but it looked like fire.

B)The significance was that fire was symbolic in OT scripture of the presence of God

C)God appeared to Moses in a Burning Bush -

1)God led the children of Israel in the wilderness with a Pillar of Fire by night

D)Elijah - 450 prophets of Baal -God manifested his presence by having fire come down from heaven and consume the sacrifice

E)The divided tongues as of fire were a manifestation of the presence of God -

1)that he was moving - doing something new and fresh

The third manifestation was 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

A)They were filled with the Spirit and began to speak in tongues

B)Now often times Christians want to side tracked on the manifestations - sound of the wind -

1)tongues that looked fire - speaking in tongues

C)None of those things are the focus - they served a purpose of making it very clear - NO DOUBT -

1)God was doing something

But the focus is Jesus - the Gospel -

A)The thing that will be at the center stage in the rest of this chapter is Peter's sermon

B)His preaching of Jesus

C)The focus is Jesus and what Jesus is wanting to do in and through his followers

The purpose of these manifestations of the Holy Spirit was to make it evident - God is in this.

A)God is doing something - new and fresh and real

B)Not something weird but in accordance with his word

When the Holy Spirit has been poured out at various times in church history - starting with the early church in Acts 2

A)There has been tangible manifestations that something is happening -

B)God was wanting them to know - THIS IS ME

C)Throughout the history of the church- when God brings revival or a fresh awakening of some sort - there have been manifestations of the HS -

D)An evidence that something unique and powerful is taking place

When I think back on the most recent revival - the Jesus people movement in the late 60's -70's

A)One clear Manifestation of the HS was Love!

B)Our nation was divided - because of the Vietnam War.

C)Riots - Hippies standing against the establishment

In the midst of Chaos and turmoil - that in many ways is similar to our day and age -

A)God poured out his Spirit

B)One of the most significant manifestations of the Holy Spirit at that time was the Love of God -

1)bringing - opposing sides together

C)CCCM on Thursdays night Bible study 2500 seat auditorium- 4x the size of this one

1)standing room only - 300-400 jr/sr high students - sitting all over the floor

D)No Concert - guy and a guitar - just Chuck Smith - hour long Bible study

There are all these hippies - Anti-establishment -

A)sitting next to guys in sport coats - women in their dresses - picture of the establishment

B)There they were sitting together - learning - worshipping - taking communion

C)Arm and Arm - singing - Love love - they will know we are Christians by our love

D)People who were vastly different socially politically, economically - mutual love -

1)mutual respect - all bros/sisters in the Lord

E)That radical love and Unity was one of the clear manifestations of the HS that God was working

It was so Remarkable and Evident -and clear that God was working - doing something unique

A)God was doing something in bringing people together that man couldn't do

B)That is what is happening here in Acts 2

Martyn Lloyd Jones - in his phenomenal book little book on the baptism of the Holy Spirit,

entitled “*Joy Unspeakable*”- and I would encourage you to get it; he says, “*Something happened and these guys knew it happened. They had an experience.*”

C) Everything else in Acts follows this experience.

1) Everything else that we read in the book of Acts - Catapults from this moment

But here is how I want to land this plane today.

A) I want us to consider for a few more minutes before we head toward communion -

B) How the heart of those 120 in that upper room stood in the contrast with the hearts of most of the rest of the people who were in Jerusalem that day

C) - A Word for us today

We noted this happened on the day of Pentecost - not an accident - deliberate - God Chance.

A) Pentecost is one of the 3 “pilgrim feast” in Israel where male Jews were **required to travel to Jerusalem every year to celebrate**

B) Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles -

C) The population of the Jerusalem normally about 30K pp - would grow to 150K during these festivals - 1) 5 times normal size

D) Tons of people there - to celebrate the feast of Pentecost

But many of them are there out of tradition - out of obligation - because of a religious ritual

A) They are there because they had to be there -

B) They are there because it was a nice break from the norm - see friends - family

C) There are people today all over the world - who are in church this morning -

1) for them it has become religious activity - tradition - Obligation

Interesting to me how a lot of people who were brought up in church - stop going as adults

A) But start going again - when they have kids

B) Tradition: My parents brought me to church - so I am going to bring my kids to church -

C) We need to show our kids that God is important - hope the church can help them become better people

D) So those parents come to church on Sundays but then they live the way they want to live the rest of the week

1) **Why? It is just a religious activity - a tradition**

All over NC there are people in church this morning - and that is the reason why - ritual - tradition - obligation - see friends

A) Hopefully that is not your story - but - I would guess it is for some of you.

B) So many of the pp maybe even - most of the people are in Jerusalem out of ritual or obligation

C) But there are 120 who are there - for one reason: Jesus commanded them to wait there - for something - a promise from God

D) Waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon them

1) They are simply doing what Jesus told them to do!

If you Want to see miracles happen in your life -

A) If you want to see the Lord work in new and fresh ways - learn this principle

B) Do what Jesus is telling you to do! -

C) When we do that in our lives - in our marriages- ministry opportunities -

1) Miracles - Outpouring and power are the result!

Obedience leads to blessings - because Big idea #3 God’s commandments are God’s enforcements -

A) Means: When we take God’s word at face value and move in obedience -

B) God meets us with his grace and power - to do what we thought was impossible to do

C) Like here on the day of Pentecost - He was meeting these 120 disciples in their obedience and waiting

D) Sending his HS to empower them for the task that was in front of them

1) Stand strong in the face of opposition and make disciples of all nations

E) We are going to see this principle play out over and over in the book of Acts -

1) Following God's instruction is met with His power
His provision

I could give you tons of examples of this principle in scripture : I am going to give you three

A) John 2 Familiar story

The wedding feast of Cana - Problem - ran out of wine

A) Big deal - 7 day reception - no running water - wine was a staple

B) Mary tells some servants - whatever Jesus tells you to do- DO IT

1) No miracles yet - Unknown - no track record to point to

C) WELL Jesus points to 6 stone water pots holding 20-30 gallons apiece - Go fill those up

Why? Doesn't make sense - we don't need water - we need wine!

A) But they didn't do that - they obeyed - they did what Jesus was asking

B) Hard task - Draw from a well - Pots hold 180 gallons - drawing with a 3 gallon bucket - 60 trips

C) But they did it - in fact it even says - they filled the pots to the brim - over board in their obedience

D) Once the pots were filled - NOW WHAT?

1) Draw some of the water out and take it to the host - still water

E) They did it believing that somewhere from the pot to his lips - TURN INTO Wine

It was the first miracle Jesus did at wedding feast - Stamp of approval on marriage - his heart for married couples

A) Want to see God work miracles in your marriage - DO what Jesus tells you to do as a Husband - wife -

B) Quit making excuses - Say: Lord I am going to move in obedience to your command -

1) believing - you are going to meet me help

You are going to work in my marriage

C) What is he saying to me as a wife - do it - what is his command as a husband - do it -

1) He is going to meet me with his strength and power to carry it out

Another example Luke 5

A) Jesus is on the shores of Galilee - preaching - Peter and his brother Andrew and James and John - there

B) Cleaning their nets after another unsuccessful night of fishing

C) Jesus asks Peter to borrow his boat - because the crowds were so big

After he is done preaching: Let go fishing - lets cast the nets - launch out into the deep - catch some fish.

A) Peter's first response is negative - Jesus we have fished all night - and got nothing

B) He could have said - the nets are already clean - everything is put away - inconvenient TIME

C) He could have said - this is the wrong time to fish - morning light on the water - scares the fish

He could have said: Jesus you obviously don't know anything about fishing -

A) we don't fish with our nets in the deep waters -

B) We fish in the Shallow water - you are a carpenter and a preacher - I won't tell you how to preach - don't tell me how to fish

C) He could have said all of that - but he didn't - Peter said - nevertheless at your word - let down the net

1) They went out and caught the biggest catch of fish - whole life

Obedient to the word of Jesus - He did something that blew their minds

A) Some of you have been so busy telling the Lord - why something can't happen - Inconvenient time

B) WHY doesn't make sense or can't work

C) You just need to do what he is telling you to do

D)The miracle that needs to happen in your life isn't going to happen until you quit saying why this is a bad idea or can't work

E)And you say - **Nevertheless - because your word says this - I am going to walk in obedience**

1)Trusting that you are going to work - supply the grace and power

Last analogy - Maybe my favorite:

A)Mark 3 - Jesus is in a Synagogue - there is a man there with a withered hand -

B)Jesus says to him - **Stretch out your hand - that man could have argued - he could have said - are you crazy**

1)Are you making fun of me - can't you see my hand is shriveled up

C)But that man - Believing that God's commandments are God's enablements -

1)moved in obedience

D)He stretched forth his hand and **AS HE DID - HIS HAND BECAME WHOLE!**

See this over and over in the book of Acts - the followers of Jesus moving in obedience to the words of Jesus - even when it doesn't make sense

A)He fills them with Power - the miraculous happens

B)Starts here - 120 in Jerusalem not out of tradition or ritual - but in obedience to the command of Jesus - 1)This Outpouring of the HS is the result

C)Why are we here today? Tradition? Ritual? or Love and devotion ?

Why are we going to partake of communion today? Tradition

A)Or our way of saying - Jesus I am identifying with your work - Saved - righteous

B)This is my announcement today - of saying - I want to follow you with all of my heart - identify - your death - I die

C)Your Resurrection - I live