

SUBJECT : THE BELIEVERS SHARE

BIBLE BASIS:

Lesson Scripture:

Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-37

BIBLE TRUTH:

We must share our lives with others.

MEMORY VERSE: READ Acts 2:44

LESSON AIM:

That you will understand how Christian love, and corporate worship gives a church a strong foundation.

Introduction

- Where there is unity there is strength. Where there is divisions and confusion, there is every evil work. James 3:16
- Unity is the sign to the world that Jesus is the Son of God. it is the miracle that convinces the unbeliever that Jesus is God. John 17:20-23
- Unity is so powerful that God himself had to come down and stop the construction of the tower of Babel. The people were of one language and together in mind and purpose that nothing could stop them. Gen 11:1-6
- The church of Ephesians was successfully evangelized because the church in that city understood the necessity of united and made the effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Eph. 4:1-3
- You can only keep what you already have. The Church has been commanded to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. As of today we have failed to keep the unity of the Spirit.
- The lesson today gives us an account of the early church and insight into why they were so successful in their evangelist efforts from one city to another.

Confirming Ministry

- **And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. Acts 2:43**
- The early believers were a people who stirred souls with a godly fear. Fear does not mean terror or fright. It means...a godly fear, a fear of God, of His displeasure and judgment...a holy sense of God's presence. a consciousness that God is working...a reverence for God and for what is happening...a sense of awe and wonder.
- Note what it is that stirs the public to be so aware of God: the signs and wonders being done by the *apostles*. And note: there were *many*.
- These are the same signs God will give to every believer to confirm ministry in them and convince the unbeliever that Jesus is God. Mark 16:17-18
- The new believers class must begin with Mark 16:17-18. The miracles and signs is what causes great fear to come upon every soul. Notice it was not just the preaching of the gospel but many signs and wonders. 1Cor. 2:4-5

Why Miracles?

- 90% of American believes in God, however 80% of the 90% don't believe Jesus is God. Miracles are designed to convince the unbeliever Jesus is God.
- John 2:23 many believe when they saw the miracles
- Luke 7:20-22 Jesus convinces John the Baptist that he is the Christ
- John 14:8-13 Jesus convinces Phillip that he is God by his works
- John 2:11 Miracles caused the Disciples to believe.
- Acts 2:22 God confirms ministry in Jesus by the miracles
- Act 4:16-20 God confirmed ministry in the Apostles by miracles
- John 7:31 the Jews were not convinced but questioned themselves
- John 6:14 Miracles was the signature card of the Messiah
- Mark 16:16-18 God wants to confirm ministry in you.
- 2Corn 5:17-19 This is our ministry. John 15:16
- 1Corn 2:3-4 He will backup your words
- 2Corn 4:7 we have this treasure, Col. 2:9-10 God has given you authority. Matt 16:13-19, Jam. 5:14-15, 1John 5:15

Let's Get Together

- [44] And all that believed were together, and had all things common;
[45] And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
- The early believers were a people who were together and who shared in ministry. It is critical for the church to pay close attention and heed what is being said in this point.
- The *professing believers* were true believers. They were those “that [truly] believe” John 2:24
- The believers were “together” This means they were together in the same place *because they were of the same call, mind, and purpose*. It does not mean just being in the same location and place. They would not have been *together* unless they had been of the same spirit and purpose.
- The believers sold their possessions and goods and used the money to minister to the poor and needy. Now note: Why would they go to such a drastic extreme to minister? There is one critical reason: Christ commanded it. The church too often denies and ignores it, but denial of the truth does not do away with the truth.

Church Every Day All Over Town

- [46] And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, [47] Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.
- The believers were worshipping in the temple. The believers were worshipping in their homes, moving from house to house.
- They were sharing together in fellowship meals and in observing the Lord's supper. Luke 9:4
- The believers were worshipping with gladness and singleness of heart. The word "singleness" means sincere, without hardness. There was no selfishness or withholding on their part.
- Note their attitude was *gladness*, joy, and rejoicing. They were more than glad to worship and minister as the Lord had instructed.
- The believers were praising God. **Matthew 5:16. Cor. 6:20.**
- The results were twofold: they gained favor with the people, and the Lord added souls to the church. Conversions to the faith were being made daily as believers lifted up Jesus every where they went. Cor. 1:18

Oneness

- **Acts 4:32** And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.
- The early church was of one heart and of one soul. The order of the Greek sentence says, “the heart and the soul [were] one.” The person’s *whole being* was one with all other believers. There was complete and total...oneness, unity, accord, harmony, love
- And remember, there were multitudes, thousands of believers at this time Acts 2:41; Acts 3:4. How in the world can a body of people achieve one heart and one soul, become so unified? This verse reveals how.
- The early believers gave their heart and soul to Jesus’ Lordship and mission. They believed, *truly* believed, that the Lord Jesus...had died for their sins...had risen from the dead...had been exalted to the right hand of God...had commissioned them to go forth, reaching and helping people...was to return and reward believers for being faithful to the great mission of saving and ministering to people.

They Had An Effective Witness

- **[33] And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all**
- The early church gave a great witness to the resurrection. Acts 2:24; Acts 2:24; Acts 2:25-36
- But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: [27] And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. John 15:26-27
- To testify means to verify by proof or evidence. The Holy Spirit comes into the world to verify that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. In other words, whatever the Holy Spirit does is to prove that Jesus is the Son of God. An you will also testify of who I am. What do you call a person that gives a testimony? A Witness
- Let's read Act 1:8 carefully. 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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

He Is A Witness

- When we read that we should be witnesses, what do we think of? Handing out tracks, going door to door, speaking to people on the street, talking to your friends.
- When you go to court to be a witness in a case, the purpose of the witnessing is bringing evidence that a persons words are true. So the holy Spirit is sent by God to prove that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Now, Jesus says, you cannot witness without him, So he said wait until the Holy Ghost comes upon you too.
- What was the first piece of evidence presented on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost came upon them? It says they were filled with the Holy Spirit and begin to speak with tongues. Act 2:4
- Now if he comes on you to give you a witness, what is he going to give you? the same stuff they got to witness on the day of Pentecost; tongues
- Which means, If you claim to represent Jesus on earth and to be witness on his case as the Son of God, then one of the evidences is the fact that you speak in other tongues. Act 1:8, Acts 2:4
- So, speaking in other tongues is not an option. According to Mark it is not a theological argument, but a sign of a believer. Mark 16:17

He Is A Witness

- Let put it this way; The Holy Spirit is who? the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, and when he speaks, what language does he speak? Holy Spirit language. Why? Because he is the Holy Spirit. So if he's the Holy Spirit and he speaks in Holy Spirit language then he speaks in spirit tongues, which is evidence that Jesus is the Son of God.
- Look at verse 26 again. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: [27] And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.
- He will be on the witness stand telling people in the courtroom of life that the man sitting in that chair the defendant in this case is the Son of God and hear is the proof. Act 1:8, Act 2:4 Tongues
- The Father will give you a witness. If he comes upon you to give you a witness then he is going to give you the same stuff he uses on the day of Pentecost. Act 2:4 other tongues
- According to Mark tongues are not an option but a sign [evidence]
- So tongues is empirical evidence that Jesus Christ is Lord.

No Lack In The Body

- [34] Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, [35] And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.
- The early church took care of all those who had need. Note four *revealing* facts that are extremely instructive and challenging. These facts show how obedient the early believers were and just how obedient God expects all believers to be. Imagine how different the church would be if believers today reached out like the early believers. What a change would be wrought in the heart of the world!)
- Fact 1: No one lacked. There was not “any among them that lacked.” The idea is that no family, no man, no woman, no child was neglected. No one was *left* without the necessities of life; no one had to face a day without the food, clothing, or shelter that he needed to take care of himself or of his dear family. What was it that caused the believers to take *care* of the needy? It was love—the duty laid upon them by Christ. Christ had told them to love and share with all those who lacked the necessities of life.

What Ever It Takes

- [36] And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, [37] Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet
- There was a true brotherhood, a genuine love and caring for each other. All repented of their *hoarding*, and they gave everything beyond their own necessities.
- Some possessed lands (estates, plural) they did not need. They sold them and gave the monies to meet the needs of others.
- Some possessed houses that were not essential to their necessities. They too sold them and gave the monies to meet the needs of others.
- Some picture this as saying that people sold the homes in which they lived, as though they moved into the streets or under the stars, exposing their families to all kinds of elements and dangers. This is most unlikely. Where would such a multitude of families (over 8,000 at this time) move, live, and survive? Shelter or housing is a necessity. Christ said so (Matthew 6:25-34). What the believers were doing is just what Christ demanded: