

1

The Acts of the Apostles * Acts 4:1 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees. 2 These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. 3 They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning. 4 But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000. NLT

2

The Acts of the Apostles * So why would the Sadducees be angry that Peter was preaching, "that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead"? * Acts 23:8 "for the Sadducees say there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, but the Pharisees believe in all of these". NLT * The Sadducees were founding members of the "when you are dead you are dead" club. ©

The Acts of the Apostles The Sadducees did not believe in an afterlife existence of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea. To of any find – in fact they actively fought against the idea.

4

The Acts of the Apostles Paul knew the Pharisees and Sadducees had this running argument about the afterlife. But we can recall a time when they put their differences aside to crucify Jesus – "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." When Paul was arrested by the Romans in Jerusalem he uses what he knows about Pharisees and Sadducees to his advantage.

5

The Acts of the Apostles The Acts 23:6 Paul realized that some members of the high council were Sadducees and some were Pharisees, so he shouted, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, as were my ancestors! And I am on trial because my hope is in the resurrection of the dead!" 7 This divided the council—the Pharisees against the Sadducees—8 for the Sadducees say there is no resurrection or angels or spirits, but the Pharisees believe in all of these. 9 So there was a great uproar. Some of the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees jumped up and began to argue forcefully. "We see nothing wrong with him," they shouted. "Perhaps a spirit or an angel spoke to him." 10 As the conflict grew more violent, the commander was afraid they would tear Paul apart. So he ordered his soldiers to go and rescue him by force and take him back to the fortress. NLT

The Acts of the Apostles

 Let's not forget what else we read in the text — "But many of the people who heard their message believed it, so the number of men who believed now totaled about 5,000".

- 3,000 saved on Pentecost and now, probably just days or maybe weeks later, 2,000 more had been saved.
- This would be like General Motors losing 5,000 customers very abruptly – Christianity is a threat!

7

The Acts of the Apostles

 I can't help but think that part of the reason for the gospel's early success is found in the unsatisfactory state of Judaism.

 The OT system had grown corrupt – the Jewish leaders were enriching themselves on the backs of the poor, and the OT believer never quite had the sense of being clean before God.



6

2 1

4

4

8

The Acts of the Apostles

• Acts 4:5 The next day the council of all the rulers and elders and teachers of religious law met in Jerusalem. 6 Annas the high priest was there, along with Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and other relatives of the high priest. 7 They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, 9 are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man? Do you want to know how he was healed? 10 Let me clearly state to all of you and to all the people of Israel that he was healed by the powerful name of Jesus christ the Nazarene, the man you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. 11 For Jesus is the one referred to in the Scriptures, where it says, 'The stone that you builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.' 12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." NLT

9

The Acts of the Apostles The Acts of the Apostles A pattern begins to emerge ... when we see "filled with the Spirit" we will also find a boldness for the Lord. Acts 2:4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of our people, 9 are we being questioned today because we've done a good deed for a crippled man?

10

The Acts of the Apostles The Acts of the Apostles Acts 4:31 After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. Acts 13:9 Saul, also known as Paul, was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he looked the sorcerer in the eye. 10 Then he said, "You son of the devil, full of every sort of deceit and fraud, and enemy of all that is good! Will you never stop perverting the true ways of the Lord?

11

The Acts of the Apostles Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks boldly about Jesus – that is something we will see repeated in this book. If you recall, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4 when he received "the baptism". What we find is that the filling of the Spirit is not a once and done event – Peter does not speak in tongues each time but is clearly controlled by Him.

The Acts of the Apostles • Remember this text? – Eph 5:18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. NLT • To be "filled" with the Holy Spirit is to be under His control.

13

The Acts of the Apostles The Acts of the Apostles God fills us to praise Him, thank Him, and use us to meet the needs of others. That is what spiritual gifts are for – service to others as we serve Christ. That is what spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. NLT

14

The Acts of the Apostles The Acts of the Apostles The Assemblies of God do not believe one can be filled with the Spirit without having first experienced the baptism in the Spirit. As a practical matter for Pentecostals like me that means that I should not speak of being filled with the Spirit. But I do find great joy in being certain that he still uses me, speaks to me, and empowers me.

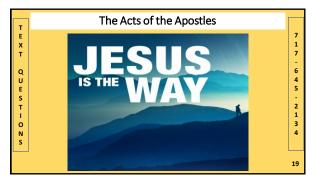
The Acts of the Apostles * And then Peter drops this on the Jewish establishment - "There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." * This was like dropping a bomb on the power structure of Judaism. * The leaders liked having the masses come to them to facilitate their connection to God via the sacrifice.

16

The Acts of the Apostles The Acts of the Apostles What may not be clear to us, but was to them is that the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus rendered them obsolete! Before, it was believe in the coming Messiah and bring your sacrifices to the temple. Now the message is "believe in Jesus who is your sacrificial lamb"- him and nothing else!

17

The Acts of the Apostles The Acts of the Apostles John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me." It is this very exclusivity that brings opposition against us how dare we claim that we have the ONLY way to God! Multiple Acts of the Apostles To the Acts of the Apostles Th



19

The Acts of the Apostles The Acts of the Apostles Acts 4:13 The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. 14 But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say. 15 So they ordered Peter and John out of the council chamber and conferred among themselves. NLT

20

The Acts of the Apostles "Ordinary men no special training in the Scriptures ... who had been with Jesus" This must have driven the Jewish leaders crazy – they were all about education, status, and being the "elite". Here comes these fishermen knowing the scriptures better than they did and doing works they could only dream about.

The Acts of the Apostles

1, for one, revel in the notion that God uses the uneducated and unsophisticated to do the works of the ministry.

1 have a bit of a formal bible education, but I am probably 90% self taught in the Word – which means that the Holy Spirit Himself has been my teacher.

1 on No Signature of the Apostles

1 decomposition of the Apostles

2 decomposition of the Apostles

3 decomposition of the Apostles

4 decomposition of the Apostles

4 decomposition of the Apostles

5 decomposition of the Apostles

7 decomposition of the Apostles

7 decomposition of the Apostles

1 decomposition of the Apostles

1 decomposition of the Apostles

7 decomposition of the Apostles

1 decomposition of the Apostles

2 decomposition of the Apostles

1 decomposition of the Apostles

2 decomposition of the Apostles

1 decomposition of the Apostles

1 decomposition of the Apostles

2 decomposition of the Apostles

3 decomposition of the Apostles

4 decomposition of the Apostles

4 decomposition of the Apostles

5 decomposition of the Apostles

5 decomposition of the Apostles

6 decomposition of the Apostles

7 decomposition of the Apostles

7 decomposition of the Apostles

9 decomposition of the Apostles

1 decomposition of the Apostles

2 decomposition of the Apostles

2 decomposition of the Apostles

2 decomposition of the Apostles

3 decomposition of the Apostles

4 decomposition of the Apostles

4 decomposition of the Apostles

4 decomposition of the Apostles

5 decomposition of the Apostles

5 decomposition of the Apostles

6 decomposition of the Apostles

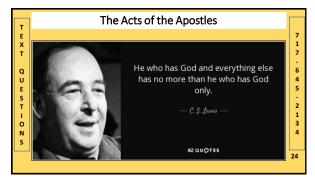
7 decomposition of the Apostles

9

22

The Acts of the Apostles There really is something to this "who had been with Jesus" phrase. As sure as night follows day this works – spend time with Jesus and we will become like him. A secular, but worthwhile axiom – "Show me your friends and I will show you your future."

23



| T E X T | | 7 1 7 |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Q U E | Questions | 6 4 5 |
| S T I O N S | | 2 1 3 4 |
| | | 25 |