

***Journey Through Acts***  
***“The Old, Old Story”***  
***Acts 2:14-47***

**Introduction:**

1. Last Sunday Night:
  - In Our ***Journey Through Acts***:
    - We Saw The Amazing Transformation:
      - That Took Place In The Lives Of 120 Disciples Of Jesus:
        - Both Men & Women - Who Were Filled With The Holy Spirit:
          - On The Day Of Pentecost - And Began To Speak With Other Languages!
  - And Because Of Those Languages:
    - Jews - Who Came From All Over The World:
      - 2:11 - Said - “We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God!”
      - And What Was Their Reaction?
        - 2:12 - “And They Were All Amazed!”
  - We Need To Remember:
    - That What God Continues To Do:
      - In & Through His People:
        - Is Still Amazing!
          - Even When It Brings About Adverse Reactions - Even Like The Ridicule We See In 3:13 - “Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine!”
2. But It Was This Ridicule:
  - That Gave The Disciples A Great Opportunity:
    - To Explain To Them:
      - What The Lord Was Doing!
        - And So - Beginning In 2:14 - “Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them!”
        - And Through 2:36 - We Have The Very First Complete Gospel Message Preached By The Church!
  - Now - Just A Bit Ago - We Sang:
    - “Tell Me The Old, Old Story!”
    - Well - At This Point:
      - The Old, Old Story:
        - Was Brand New!
          - Because It Was Just 7 Weeks Earlier, When Jesus Was Crucified, Buried & Had Risen Again!
  - And Yet - What Seemed So “New” To Them:
    - Was Still Part Of “The Old, Old Story” - That God Himself:
      - Was Telling - From The Very Beginning Of Time!
      - And That Peter Will Describe For Us:
        - As We Look More Closely At:
1. ***The Proclamation Of The Gospel!***
  - And The ***Very First*** Proclamation By The Church - And By Peter Himself:
    - Who Were Called - Back In 1:8:
      - To Be “Witnesses” For Jesus Christ:
        - First Of All - “In Jerusalem!”
    - But It’s Interesting To Note:
      - That What Peter Sought To Address:
        - In This Very First Christian Sermon:
          - Was The “Mocking” That Was Taking Place In 2:13!
  - Look Back At 2:14-21:
    - “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: / For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day!”
    - This Meant That It Was Around 9 In The Morning:
      - When All Of This Took Place:

- On That Day Of Pentecost!
- And Even Though Their Accusation:
  - Seemed A Bit Absurd - Peter Saw It:
    - As A Great Opportunity To Explain To Them Everything They Were Seeing & Hearing!
  - They Might Have “Thought Evil Against” Them:
    - But - “God Meant It Unto Good!”
      - And So, Peter Reminds Them Of An “Old, Old Story” From The Old Testament - And A Prophecy From The Book Of Joel!
- Peter Adds - In 2:16-18:
  - But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; / And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: / And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy!”
    - Here - Peter Quotes From Joel 2:28-32:
      - To Help Explain That What Seemed:
        - To Them As Something New & Novel - Was In Fact:
          - Part Of God’s Plan & Even A Special Fulfilment Of God’s Promises!
  - And Then - He Continues - In 2:19-21:
    - “And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: / The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: / And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved!”
      - Could The Sound That They Heard From Heaven That Day:
        - The Sound - “As Of A Rushing Mighty Wind” - Have Been One Of The “Wonders” That God Promised To “Shew - In Heaven Above” Back In Joel?
    - But The Rest Of Joel’s Prophecy:
      - Shows That What Took Place In Jerusalem:
        - That Day - Was Just the Beginning:
          - Of That “Great And Notable Day Of The Lord!”
            - And That - They Needed To Be Ready - For When Jesus Will Return From Heaven!
    - But Peter’s Proclamation All Began:
      - When He Sought To Explain:
        - What The Jews In Jerusalem Saw & Heard But Did Not Understand!
      - And - Like Peter:
        - We Have The Same Responsibility:
          - When It Comes To The Gospel!
            - 1 Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear!”
        - We Need To “Be Ready Always!”
          - To Answer Questions & Even Accusations!
            - To Be Able To Give The Right Kind Of “Defense” - Not Merely Of Our Character - But Of The Work Of Jesus Christ!
      - And We Need To Be Ready To Use:
        - What Peter Used!
          - Scripture - Especially When People:
            - See & Hear A Difference In Our Lives As Christians!
          - Since We Have Been Called To Be “A chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light!” (1 Peter 2:9)
      - But After Peter Explains What Was Going On:
        - He Gets Right To:

## 2. ***The Point Of The Gospel!***

- In 2:26-36 - Where We Find All The Elements:
  - Of The Gospel - Presented In Summary Form!
    - “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by

- miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: / Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: / Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it!”
- Here - Peter Describes:
    - The Life Of Jesus!
      - Who Was “A Man Approved Of God!” - But Then - Describes:
    - The Rejection Of Jesus!
      - Which John Also Described In John 1:11 - “He came unto his own, and his own received him not!” - But Then - Goes On To:
    - The Crucifixion Of Jesus!
      - 2:23 - “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain!”
      - This Shows Both Divine Sovereignty & Human Responsibility In God’s Plan! But Even Though He Died - It All Leads To:
    - The Resurrection Of Jesus!
      - Because - 2:24 - “It Was Not Possible” For Death To Hold Onto The “Prince Of Life!”
  - And Peter Once Again Wants To Show That This “New” Story Is Not Really All That “New” After All!
    - 2:25-28 - “For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: / Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: / Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. / Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance!”
      - Here - Peter Quotes From Psalm 16:8-11 - To Show That The Death & Resurrection Of The Messiah Was All Part Of That “Old, Old Story!”
        - And He Further Explains In:
          - 2:29-32 - “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. / Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; / He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. / This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses!”
            - The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ Is The Central Truth Of The Gospel!
              - Paul - 1 Corinthians 15:14-15 - Importance Of The Resurrection - “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. / Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not!”
                - But - Even After Jesus’ Resurrection - There Still Is More To The Story!
      - 2:33-36 - “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. / For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, / Until I make thy foes thy footstool. / Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ!”
        - Peter Goes On To Describe:
          - The Exaltation Of Jesus!
            - To “The Right Hand” Of God The Father!
            - And:
          - The Work Of Jesus!
            - To Send The Holy Spirit & To “Shed Forth This, Which Ye Now See And Hear!”
        - The Message Of Peter Is Powerfully Clear!
          - Jesus Is Alive & Well:
            - And Is Back To Work:
              - Through His Spirit & Through His Church!
    - And - Like Peter:
      - We Still Have The Same Message!
        - The Same Good News! About:
          - The Life Of Jesus!
          - The Crucifixion Of Jesus!
          - The Resurrection Of Jesus!

- The Exaltation Of Jesus!
- And Even The Ongoing Work Of Jesus!
- We Need To Keep Pointing People:
  - To Jesus! Because The Gospel Is All About Him!
  - And That Noone Will Be Able To Escape The Truth That Jesus Is:
    - “Both Lord & Christ!”
  - And - “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; / And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!” (Philippians 2:10-11)
- And This Great Truth Leads To:

### 3. *The Plea Of The Gospel!*

- The Gospel Of Jesus Christ:
  - Is Meant To Bring People To A Point Of Crisis!
    - Even As It Did Back In Acts 2:37-40:
      - Where We See:
  - An Inquiry To The Gospel!
    - 2:37 - “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”
      - We Need To Note The Cause Of This Inquiry!
        - It Only Came About After “They Were Pricked In Their Heart!”
        - After They “Heard” Peter’s Message!
    - God Was Clearly At Work:
      - Not Just In Peter’s Words:
        - But - Through His Spirit - In The Hearts Of Many Of Those People There!
          - This Is God’s Work!
      - He Is The One:
        - Who Prepares The Soil Of Our Heart:
          - To Receive The Lord!
      - He Is The One:
        - Who Quickens Us - By His Grace:
          - From Our Spiritual Death!
      - He Is The One:
        - Who “Worketh In You Both To Will And To Do Of His Good Pleasure!” (Phil. 2:13)
      - And So - He Is The One:
        - Who Enabled These People, As Well As Us, To Cry Out: “What Shall We Do?”
          - Or - Acts 16:30 - “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”
    - And To This Question - We Find:
  - An Invitation To The Gospel!
    - 2:38-40 - “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. / For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. / And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation!”
      - Peter Calls On The Crowd To:
        - Repent From Their Sin!
          - That Is - To Turn From It & Surrender It All To The Lord!
      - He Also Calls On Them To:
        - “Be Baptized - In The Name Of Jesus Christ For The Remission Of Sins!”
          - This Verse & Others Like It, Unfortunately, Are The Basis Of Some Who Say That Water Baptism Is Necessary For Full Salvation From Sin!
    - But Other Passages Are Equally Clear:
      - That Repentance & Faith Are The Only Conditions:
        - For Salvation & Forgiveness Of Sin!
          - Acts 16:31 - “And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved!”
    - Peter & Paul Are Not Contradicting Each Other!
      - Rather - Baptism Is The Outward, Visible Sign:
        - Of The Inward, Saving Faith:

- In Jesus Christ!
- So Peter, Here, Is Making The Same Appeal!
  - The Same Plea!
    - Repent From Your Sin!
    - Believe In Jesus Christ!
    - And Then - Follow Through In Believer's Baptism - And Identify Yourself:
      - With Christ & His Church!
- And - Like Peter:
  - We Still Have The Same Appeal!
    - As We Rely On The Work Of God:
      - To Prepare The Hearts Of Sinners & To Quicken Them To Life & Faith In Christ:
        - We Plea - With All Of Our Hearts - As Paul Did - 2 Corinthians 5:20 - "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God!"
  - May The Lord Give Us:
    - A Greater Passion For The Souls:
      - Of Those Who Are Lost!
        - And A Greater Courage To Invite Them To Christ!
      - John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life!"
  - And Now - Look At What God Was Able To Do:
    - With This Simple & Clear Message Of The Gospel:
      - Back In Acts!

#### 4. ***The Power Of The Gospel!***

- 2:41 - "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls!"
  - 3,000 People Were Changed By The Grace Of God & The Power Of His Gospel!
    - And Along With This Change - There Came:
- A New Fellowship!
  - 2:42-43 - "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. / And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles!"
    - They Learned Together!
    - They Worshiped Together!
    - They Prayed Together!
    - They Witnessed Together!
    - And They Grew Together!
  - And This Has Become The Simple Plan & Pattern:
    - For The Fellowship Of Christians:
      - Ever Since!
        - But They Also Became Part Of:
- A New Family!
  - 2:44-45 - "And all that believed were together, and had all things common; / And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need!"
    - It Is Unfortunate That Some Have Seen In These Verses A Form Of "Christian Communism!"
      - But This Is Not The Case - Instead - It Was A Voluntary Desire To Meet The Needs Of Their New Christian Family!
  - When There Was A Need:
    - They Would Make Whatever Sacrifice Was Necessary:
      - To Meet The Need Of Their New Brother & Sister In Christ!
      - Because They Now All Had:
- A New Focus!
  - 2:46-47 - "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, / Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved!"

#### **Conclusion:**

1. This Is What The Power Of The Gospel:
  - **Has** Done - And This Is What The Power Of The Gospel:
    - **Will** Do!
      - So - Let Us Respond Even Today:
        - As Those New Christians Did Then!
  - 2:47 - “Praising God, And Having Favor With All The People!”
    - Because The Lord Continues To Work!
    - He Continues To “Add To The Church Daily Such As Should Be Saved!”
      - This Is That “Old, Old Story – Of Jesus And His Love!”

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