

CP - 12/4/22

Acts 11:1-18 - "The Groundwork is Finished"

Sermon Outline:

Principle:

The means by which God has planned to build His Church is through His Church preaching the good news and making disciples.

* In order for this to happen, then and now, there were barriers that had to be broken down.

1. The gospel had to get out of Jerusalem
2. Those who believed the gospel must all believe it was for all people*

From Pentecost to 11:18, 7 years have lapsed. For 7 years, God has been laying the groundwork to fulfill the great commission.

- God is the one leading and drawing
- He is orchestrating conversions and conversations
- and through man's obedience, the gospel is spreading

If God says something once, we must listen.

If He repeats it, then we should see the importance even more.

I. The Jewish believers criticize Peter (1-3)

- * He removed the barriers of both evangelism and fellowship
- * Is there anything that keeps you from sitting at the table with someone?

II. Peter explains and defends (4-17)

* Principle for testing to if it is the Spirit:

1. There are witnesses who experienced it as well (12)
 - *Never evaluate your experience with you experience alone
2. It was in accordance with Revelation (16)
 - *what we call a move of God, had to be in line with Scripture
 - *God doesn't act in a "new way" that isn't in accordance with Scripture

* v.17- Holy Spirit

1. The Spirit is given
2. Same gift
3. To all who believe

*No one has more of the Spirit than the other..

*The question isn't, how much of the Spirit you have... It's how much of you the Spirit has

***How can I be filled with the Spirit?**

-Ephesians 5:18- And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit

-close parallel- how do you get drunk with wine? You drink lots of it especially back then

-that's the parallel... you drink of the Spirit

-1 Corinthians 12:13- For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit

-John 7:37-39- On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. **38** Whoever believes in me, as[a] the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" **39** Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive,

How do we drink of the Spirit?

- * Romans 8:5
 - * Set our minds on the things of the Spirit
 - * Colossians 3:1-2
 - * To set out mind on means seeking, direction our attention toward
 - * Directing our attention to the things of the Spirit, being devoted
- * **What are the things of the Spirit?**
 - * 1 Corinthians 2:14
 - * Drinking of the spirit is setting our minds on the things of the Spirit
 - * The things of the Spirit means directing our attention to the Word
 - * If we do this long enough, we will drink of the Spirit
- * The Spirit is not wine... He is a person and freely comes and goes as He wills.
 - * Luke 11:13
 - * If we want to be filled with the Spirit, we must pray for it

III. The Jewish believers see it (18)

- * the ground work is laid
- * They see it...

Why 7 years? (Groundwork)

- Apostolic authority (doctrine) (foundation)
- Right instruments had to be prepared (workers)
- Time for prejudice came down

Translate to today:

Here at CP:

- Teach doctrine (framing a doctrine) (principles)
- God is preparing instruments
- God removing obstacles from our hearts and lives

Small Group Questions:

1. What from the Bible passage and sermon spoke to you?
2. Why was it important for God to obstacles for both evangelism and fellowship? How did He? Why did the Jewish Christians have such a hard time with this?
3. What are ways we can test things labeled the work of the Holy Spirit? Why is it important for us to test things? How can it keep us from error? Share any experience with this?
4. How can we be filled with the Spirit? Why is there a need to be constantly filled? What is the difference between being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled by the Spirit?