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| Subject | Lessons from Acts Series | 4402 |
| | | Acts 2 |
| Title | 7 Lessons from Acts 2 | |
| Proposition | To study Acts 2. | |
| Objective | To consider seven lessons which Acts 2 helps me to consider and appreciate and apply in my own life. | |

7 Lessons from Acts 2

Introduction:

1. How much poorer would we be today without Acts 2?
2. I agree with J.D. Bales that Acts 2 is THE HUB of the Bible.
3. In any moving vehicle, the HUB of the wheels is crucial to its continuing to move!
4. Without those wagon wheel HUBS, in those multitude of WAGON TRAINS, the wild west of our own land would never have been tamed.
5. Certainly ALL of God's word is important and not one word of it is inconsequential!
6. BUT, let's study today SEVEN LESSONS from one of the most helpful and crucial texts in the entire Bible: ACTS 2...

DISCUSSION: Acts 2 Helps me in that it—

I. Presents a Switch from FUTURE to PRESENT.

1. Acts 2 is a TURNING POINT.
2. Before Acts 2 the kingdom is spoken of as FUTURE; after Acts 2, the kingdom is spoken of as being in existence.
3. **BEFORE ACTS 2:**
 - 1) Jesus began His public ministry preaching a certain message... Mark 1:15 **...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**
 - 2) Matthew 10:7 **And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**
 - 3) Matthew 16:18 **And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**
 - 4) Luke 22:18 **For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.**
 - 5) Acts 1:6 **When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**
4. **THEN THERE CAME A SWITCH** in the manner in which the kingdom/church is mentioned.

AFTER ACTS 2:

 - 1) Acts 2:47 **Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. It had to be PRESENT in order to have individuals ADDED to it!.**

- 2) Acts 5:11 **And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.** *This verse describes a group of people, THE CHURCH, and the reaction they had to persecution—THUS, it was a present REALITY.*
 - 3) Acts 13:1 **Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.** *These words tell of a church being IN EXISTENCE in the great city of Antioch in the 1st Century.*
 - 4) Colossians 1:13 **Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:**
 - 5) Revelation 1:9 **I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**
5. The great lesson for us here is that: **ANY CHURCH BUILT BEFORE ACTS 2 IS TOO EARLY; ANY CHURCH BUILT AFTER ACTS 2 IS TOO LATE!!!**

Acts 2 Helps me in that it—

II. Connects Jesus' Promise with POWER (2.1-4).

1. It obviously would take a great deal of POWER to move mankind from the grips of Satan and SIN into the hands of our loving God to abide with Him forever!
2. So it should be NO SURPRISE to us that Jesus would inform the apostles that the kingdom would come when the POWER came.
 - 1) Mark 9:1 **...Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.**
 - 2) Furthermore, He told the apostles: Luke 24:49 **And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.**
 - 3) Acts 1:8 **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.**
 - 4) So then WHEN did the Holy Spirit come?
 - 1) The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost Day of Acts 2.
 - 2) Acts 2:4 **And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**
3. We should be so thankful that the apostles received POWER.
 - 1) How would it work if Jesus charged this group to go out into the world preaching the good news **fcWITHOUT POWER?**
 - 2) They would have been defeated by Satan.
 - 3) The Lord sent them out with a **GOD-BREATHED** message.
 - 1- They did not have to depend upon their human memory to present the doctrine of Christ!

- 2- The very Holy Spirit of God guided them into ALL TRUTH (John 16.13)!
- 4) He sent them forth with SUPERNATURAL powers to convince the people that they should LISTEN to their message.
- 5) The apostles were given the very POWER they so desperately NEEDED to accomplish the Lord's will.
- 4. Acts 2 is the place in Scripture where this promise from Jesus to the apostles is fulfilled.

Acts 2 Helps me in that it—

III. Makes SUPER-clear the PURPOSE of Baptism (Acts 2.38).

1. So many debates and public discussions and written debates have taken place over the PURPOSE OF BAPTISM and what is said in Acts 2.38.
2. Acts 2.38 presents a REAL problem to those who make the claim that we are saved by FAITH ALONE.
 - 1) They believe and teach the error that one is saved at the point of faith.
 - 2) This passage clearly disputes that proposition!
3. The way many choose to GET AROUND Acts 2.38 is to say that EIS means, sometimes, BECAUSE OF.
 - 1) Acts 2:38 **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.**
 - 2) Clearly, if one simply reads this verse without the colored glasses of FAITH ONLY BIAS, baptism has a PURPOSE—to remit sins.
 - 3) However, if one is saved AT THE POINT OF FAITH, this verse presents a problem because it requires baptism.
 - 4) So the claim is that one is baptized BECAUSE OF the remission of sins.
 - 1- This makes no sense.
 - 2- If baptism is BECAUSE OF the remission of sins, then so is repentance, because **REPENT** is joined to **BE BAPTIZED** with the coordinating conjunction: **AND**.
 - 1] If the argument is valid, then one must claim also that a person can make no changes in his mind (repent) and still be saved.
 - 2] It is impossible to be consistent and follow false teaching!
5. Notice also another passage which is made to be nonsensical with the BECAUSE OF argument.
 - 1) Matthew 26:28 **For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**
 - 2) Whether you are reading in the Greek text or the English, this passage is the exact same phrase as Peter used in Acts 2.38 to answer the question of what to do to be saved.
 - 1- They claim baptism is BECAUSE OF the remission of sins.
 - 2- Did Jesus suffer excruciatingly on the cross BECAUSE OF the fact that sins were **already remitted**?

3- How foolish is such an argument!

Acts 2 Helps me in that it—

IV. GIVES DISTINCTION BETWEEN the two QUESTIONS: WHAT & WHEN (Acts 2.38).

1. Some people will ask if we believe baptism is essential for salvation.
 - 1) Having answered YES, they will proceed to charge that we believe in WATER REGENERATION.
 - 2) And we would say NO.
 - 3) They would continue: *So you believe that the power to wash away your sins is IN THE WATER.*
 - 4) We would say NO.
 - 5) They would counter with: *How can you say you do not believe that water saves if the sinner is not saved until AFTER he is baptized?.*
 - 6) We should say: *Because WHEN one is saved and WHAT saves a person are TWO DIFFERENT QUESTIONS!.*
2. In our radio program, each Sunday morning, we present to people listening FOURTEEN statements from Scripture regarding how men are saved.
 - 1) I need to understand that those 14 statements present God's part in the salvation process.
 - 2) Man has commands he must obey in order to avail himself of the free gift of salvation.
 - 3) These two aspects of salvation answer the question: WHAT SAVES!
3. Another question altogether is the question of WHEN salvation happens.
 - 1) WHEN do these 14 statements about salvation take effect?
 - 2) Naaman was healed of his leprosy (by the supernatural power of God) WHEN he washed in the Jordan 7 times (2 Kings 5.1-19).
 - 3) The blind man in John 9 was able to see WHEN he had washed in the Pool of Siloam.
 - 4) So then, WHEN does the blood of Christ SAVE one who has been separated from God by sin?
 - 1- The answer to that question of WHEN is given to us in Acts 2.38.
 - 2- It happens when one is baptized.

Acts 2 Helps me in that it—

V. Promises the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (2.38-39).

1. I must be BRIEF with this point if I am to cover SEVEN lessons, but I have an article I would be happy to share with you if you would like further study.
2. Faithful brethren in churches of Christ DIFFER with regard to the answer to the question of what is the gift.
3. I am in agreement with Dan Sikes and the late Curtis Cates in taking the position that THE GIFT is salvation.
4. Briefly, here is why...
 - 1) I have a much simpler answer than the one many of my brethren give.

- 2) I believe the immediate context proves an insightful clue to the answer to the question.
- 3) Acts 2:39 **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.**
 - 1- The last part of verse 38 surely sustains a relationship to the next verse.
 - 2- The verse begins with the word FOR, which surely indicates an explanation is being given relating to the GIFT mentioned in 38.
 - 3- As simply as I know how to put it, the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT is: SALVATION.
 - 4- I identify SALVATION with the PROMISE of verse 39 and the gift of verse 38.
 - 5- Some will say: *Well that has Peter stating THE SAME THING TWICE.*
 - 1] Is it so strange that Peter, a Jew, would address his Jewish audience with a figure used so abundantly in Hebrew Scripture: SYNONYMOUS PARALLELISM?
 - 2] What is so wrong with stating the blessing that comes from repentance and baptism?
- 4) I also relate THE GIFT to the fact that all spiritual blessings are in Christ (Ephesians 1.3), and the only way to get into Christ is by being baptized INTO Him (Romans 6.3; Galatians 3.27).
- 5) When we repent and are baptized we have access to all of those spiritual blessings.
5. Do WE RECEIVE the GIFT today?
 - 1) Yes we do, when we obey the gospel.
 - 2) Is it miraculous in nature? No it is not.
 - 3) The GIFT is salvation—that same salvation promised long ago to the father of the faithful.

Acts 2 Helps me in that it—

VI. Adds to My Understanding of the Lord's Supper (2.42; 20.7)

- Acts 2:42 **And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**
- Acts 20:7 **And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.**
1. Both Acts 2.42 and 20.7 are in the context of an assembly.
 2. Interestingly, both references are FOLLOWED BY “breaking bread” in the context of an ordinary meal.
 - 1) Acts 2.42 is followed by: Acts 2:46 **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,**
 - 2) Acts 20.7 is followed by Acts 20.11, where Paul, after raising Eutychus, came back up to the upper room and broke bread.
 3. Also in Acts 2.42 the DEFINITE ARTICLES appear THE breaking of THE BREAD (contrasts with BREAKING BREAD in v. 46).

- 1) Many Bible students understand the definite articles to indicate that this was NOT just an ordinary BREAKING BREAD (eating a common meal), but a particular act of breaking a PARTICULAR BREAD (i.e., observing the Lord's Supper).
- 2) The definite article is also present in Acts 20.7 (in the Textus Receptus—the NA & UBS omit the article), whereas verse 11 does NOT have the definite article.
4. These two passages together help us to see that one of the things done in the assemblies of the 1st Century church was to observe the Lord's Supper each first day of the week.

Acts 2 Helps me in that it—

VII. Lets Me Look through the I'S OF ACTS 2.

Note: This chapter stands as the chapter in which God's SOR through Jesus Christ is set forth.

- 1) It is the place where we see the kingdom of God established.
- 2) It is the place where we see the terms of salvation given in connection with the DBR of Jesus.
- 3) Is there some way to help us REMEMBER its contents?
- 4) Psalms 119 pattern—Acrostic, pneumatic devices.
 - 1- MNEUMONIC devices.
 - 2- Adjective: “*assisting or intended to assist the memory.*” –Dictionary.com

SOURCE: The following outline came from B.J. Clarke.

1. **INFILLING** (2.1-4)... The TWELVE apostles on this day of Pentecost following the DBR were in-filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. **INSPIRATION** (2.5-21)... The INFILLING of the apostles of Christ inspired them with the message of God.
 - 1) Acts 2:7-8 *And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? (8) And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?*
 - 2) Acts 2:12-13 *And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? (13) Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.*
 - 3) Those Jews who said, mockingly, **THESE MEN ARE FULL OF NEW WINE**, were **WRONG!**
 - 4) What had happened is that the promise Jesus made of sending the Comforter to guide them into all truth was now a reality.
 - 5) These men were going to be teaching God-breathed words!
3. **INDICTMENT** (2.22-23)... The miraculous happenings on that day focused the attention of the Jews toward the apostles.
 - 1) Peter begins to INDICT them with the crucifixion and slaying of Jesus of Nazareth
 - 2) They were in the midst of seeing/hearing a supernatural happening.
 - 3) The supernatural happening was intended to show these men to be God's representatives.

- 4) The message from God to these people is that they had made a tragic mistake in rejecting and crucifying Jesus.
- 5) They had killed the very Son of God.
4. **INTERPRETATION** (2.24-36)... Peter proceeded to discuss the glorious resurrection of Jesus.
 - 1) He interpreted Joel's statement in Joel 2.28 as being fulfilled at that moment— **THIS IS THAT** (v. 16).
 - 2) He referred back to the statement of David in the 16th Psalm, Psalms 16:10 **For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.**
 - 1- Peter took that statement and interpreted it as it related to Jesus.
 - 2- David, as a prophet, was foretelling the resurrection of Christ from the dead to sit on David's throne.
 - 3- David's words were interpreted to mean Jesus would not be left in Hades, but He would conquer death and **ASCEND** to assume His position at the **RIGHT HAND OF GOD.**
5. **INQUIRY** (2.37)... Acts 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?**
6. **INVITATION** (Acts 2.38-41)...
 - 1) Peter invited those whose hearts had been **CUT** by the preaching of the gospel to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins.
 - 2) He invited them **TO COME TO** the same Jesus they had killed, so that He might give to them **LIFE.**
7. **INCREASE** (2.42-47)... After their initial conversion to Christ they increased.
 - 1) They increased in their knowledge of the apostles' doctrine.
 - 2) By means of fellowship and breaking of bread.
 - 3) In their prayers for one another.
 - 4) In their love and concern for one another, etc.

Conclusion:

1. Acts 2 is certainly an amazing chapter.
2. We should be so thankful that whenever we wish, we can open up our Bibles to this beautiful chapter penned by Luke and look through the I's of this important chapter in God's Book!