

# The Acts of the Apostles

## Part III

Gospel in Jerusalem – Early Church, Apostleship of Peter

**Ascension Men's Bible Study**

# Peter – The First Bishop of Rome

- Peter in the Gospels:
  - The most visible and vocal Apostle
    - Peter listed first: Mk 3:16 and Luke 6:14 pg 1406, 1448
    - Matthew specifies he was first: Matthew 10:2 pg 1352
  - Peter is singled out unlike the other apostles
    - Mk 1:36, 16:7, Lk 9:32 pg 1403, 1432, 1456
  - Peter is recognized as the leader by government leaders
    - Mt 17:24-27 collection of the annual tax. pg 1369
  - Peter speaks to Jesus on behalf of the other apostles
    - Mk 8:29, Lk 12:41, Jn 6:66-69 pg 1417, 1463, 1500

# Peter – The Catholic Church's First Bishop of Rome

- Peter in the Gospels:
  - Peter is given special attention by Jesus along with James and John
    - Raising of Jairus' daughter Mk 5:37 pg 1409
    - Transfiguration: Mk 9:2 pg pg 1418
    - Agony of Jesus in the garden: Mk 14:33 pg 1428
    - Only 3 disciples Jesus renamed: Simon = Peter Mk 3:16  
James and John = Boanerges (sons of thunder) pg 1406
  - Jesus prayed for him personally on the night of his betrayal that he might steady the faith of his fellow apostles: Lk 22:31-37 pg 1480

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- Peter in the Gospels:
  - On Easter morning Peter and John run to the tomb. John outran him and deferred to let Peter enter first. Jn 20:1-8 pg 1522
  - Later on Easter day Jesus appeared privately to Peter making him the first witness of the resurrection of the apostles: Lk 24:33-34 pg 1484; 1 Cor 15:3-5 pg 1620
  - Most important Jesus made promises to Peter that he did not make to the other apostles:
    - On Peter He would build his church Mt 16:18 pg 1366
    - Peter would be the keeper of the Keys to Christ's Kingdom: Mt 16:19 pg 1366
    - He would be the shepherd in charge of Christ's sheep: Jn 21:15-17 pg 1525

# Peter – The Catholic Church's First Bishop of Rome

- Peter in the Book of Acts:
  - In Acts we see Peter exercising authority and leadership.
    - Peter oversees the replacement of Judas with Matthias to bring the number to 12: Acts 1:15-26 pg 1528
    - When the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples at Pentecost it was Peter who preached the inaugural sermon of Church history: Acts 2:14-36 pg 1530
    - When the crowds accepted his testimony it was Peter who urged them to repent and receive Baptism: Acts 2:37-41 pg 1531

# Peter – The Catholic Church's First Bishop of Rome

- Peter in the Book of Acts:
  - In Acts we see Peter exercising authority and leadership.
    - Peter performed the first healing in church history: Acts 3:1-10 pg 1531
    - Peter addressed the Sanhedrin and witnessed to the gospel: Acts 4:5-12 pg 1533
    - Peter handled the first case of discipline in the church: Acts 5:1-11 pg 1534
    - When the gospel spread beyond Judea into Samaria, it was Peter who brought the Holy Spirit to this missionary development. Acts 8:14-17 Pg 1541
    - When God arranged for the first Gentile conversions in Church history he sent Peter to preach and administer Baptism: Acts 10:34-48 pg 1545
    - At the first recorded council in Church history in Jerusalem, it was Peter who ended the debate with a proclamation of Christian doctrine: Acts 15:6-12 pg 1553

# THE FIRST EVANGELISM

# The Early Church in Jerusalem

- Acts 2:41-42 pg 1531
- The first converts
  - Received his word
  - Baptized
  - 3000
  - Held to the apostles teachings
  - Fellowship
  - Breaking of bread
  - To the prayers



# The Early Church in Jerusalem

- Acts 2:43-47 pg 1531
- Daily life of believers
  - Wonders and signs done through the apostles
  - Held all things in common
  - Distributed to all as each had need
  - Daily attended temple
  - Broke bread in their homes generously and gladly praising God
  - Lord added daily to their number those being saved

# The Early Church in Jerusalem

- Acts 4:23-31 pg 1534
- Believers pray for boldness
  - Healing
  - Signs and wonders
  - Through the name of Jesus
  - Gathered together
    - Place was shaken
    - Filled with the Holy Spirit
    - Spoke word of God with boldness

# The Early Church in Jerusalem

- Acts 4:32-37 pg 1534
- Sharing of Possessions
  - No one was needy
  - Those who had possessions sold them
  - Proceeds brought to the apostles
  - Distributed to those who had need

# The Early Church in Jerusalem

- Acts 5:12-16 pg 1535
- Apostles heal many
  - More believers (both men and women) multitudes added
  - Carried the sick into the street so Peter's shadow would cast on them
  - Came from towns all around bringing the sick and those with unclean spirits
  - All were healed.

# The Early Church in Jerusalem

- Acts 6:2-7 pg 1536
- Deacons were chosen
  - The twelve gathered together and decided they needed help so they could continue preaching
  - Seven were chosen from among the believers
    - Full of the Spirit
    - Filled with wisdom
    - Chose Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolaus
  - Ordained – Apostles laid hands on them and prayed
  - Word of God increased
  - Disciples increased
  - Priests became obedient to the faith

# The Early Church in Jerusalem

- Acts 7:54-60 pg 1539
- The first Martyr for the faith
  - Stephen saw the glory of God
  - He was rushed and stoned
  - Stephen prayed “Lord Jesus receive my spirit”
  - Knelt down and cried “Lord do not hold this sin against them”.
  - He fell asleep

# THE NEW EVANGELISM

# THE NEW EVANGELISM

- Addressing the cardinals who elected him, the 76-year-old Argentinean said the Church should shun worldliness and be more focused on proclaiming the message of Jesus Christ.
- During his first homily, he went on to warn cardinals the Church risked becoming a "pitiful NGO (Non-Governmental Organization)" unless it underwent spiritual renewal.
- "If we do not confess to Christ what would we be? We would end up a pitiful NGO", he said, adding: "What would happen would be like when children make sand castles and then it all falls down."



# Pope Francis tells about choosing to call himself Francis



- “Some people didn't know why the Bishop of Rome wanted to call himself 'Francis'. Some thought of Francis Xavier, Francis de Sales, even Francis of Assisi. I will tell you the story. At the election I had the archbishop emeritus of Sao Paulo next to me. He is also prefect emeritus of the Congregation for the Clergy, Cardinal Claudio Hummes [O.F.M.]: a dear, dear friend. When things were getting a little 'dangerous', he comforted me. And then, when the votes reached the two-thirds, there was the usual applause because the Pope had been elected. He hugged me and said: 'Do not forget the poor.' And that word stuck here [tapping his forehead]; the poor, the poor. Then, immediately in relation to the poor I thought of Francis of Assisi. Then I thought of war, while the voting continued, until all the votes [were counted]. And so the name came to my heart:: Francis of Assisi. For me he is the man of poverty, the man of peace, the man who loves and safeguards Creation. In this moment when our relationship with Creation is not so good—right?—He is the man who gives us this spirit of peace, the poor man ... Oh, how I wish for a Church that is poor and for the poor!”

# General Outline for our study

- January: Introduction
- February: Ascension to Pentecost
- March/April: Gospel in Jerusalem – Early Church, Apostleship of Peter
- May: Gospel in Jerusalem – Establishment of the church and her mission, Apostleship of Paul
- June: Gospel in Judea and Samaria – Ministry of Phillip and Peter
- July: Gospel in Judea and Samaria – Conversion of Saul, Gentile conversions, persecution of the church
- Aug: Gospel to Ends of the Earth – Paul's first missionary journey, Counsel of Jerusalem
- Sep: Paul's second and third missionary journeys
- Oct: Paul's arrest and imprisonment
- Nov: Paul's journey to and ministry in Rome.