

Acts 11

We see three things modeled for us as a church- Evangelism, encouragement, Provision/charity

v.1-18 Peter recounts his stretching in ministry, being open to minister

v.17 God gave them the same gift of the Holy Spirit not the manifestation of tongues- that was only a sign

**v.18 repentance to life not just from sin but to life**

- we see fruits of repentance, when God saves things happen
- we are cleansed- 1 John 1:19 are you cleansed?
- He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment to come
- He testifies of Jesus

Their response- it's always good to agree with God is doing and get on board- make sure it's God

v.20 they preached Jesus- simple gospel is the power

- not entertainment, not programs, not social reform but Jesus
- people are not more sophisticated today, people are the same as always
- People still want black and white in spite of what media might portray

*1Cor 1:17-18 (NKJV) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. 18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

v. 21 the hand of the Lord was with them- His work, His way

*Zech 4:6 (NKJV) So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.*

- Mike MacIntosh- only God's fingerprints on the work
- If it's not the Lord's work, we don't want to do it

v. 22 the church in Jerusalem took seriously their role as overseers

v.23 they saw the grace of God- I've seen His majesty in nature, I've seen His power in healing, finances, but the thing that moves me more than anything is seeing His grace in my life and other's lives

v.23 he encouraged them- key verse for us- *parakeltos*, the same word that Jesus used for the Holy Spirit- one another ministry

*Rom 12:10 (NKJV) Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;*

*Rom 15:14 (NKJV) Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*

*1Cor 12:25-26 (NKJV) 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

*Gal 5:13 (NKJV) For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

*Eph 4:1-2 (NKJV) 1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love,*

*Eph 4:32 (NKJV) And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving (gracing) one another, even as God in Christ forgave (graced) you.*

*Eph 5:18-21 (NKJV) 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

*Col 3:13 (NKJV) bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.*

*1Thess 3:12 (NKJV) And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you,*

*1Thess 4:17-18 (NKJV) 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

*1Thess 5:11 (NKJV) Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.*

*Heb 10:24-25 (NKJV) 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.*

*Jas 5:9 (NKJV) Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!*

*Jas 5:16 (NKJV) Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

*1Pet 3:8-9 (NKJV) 8 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing.*

*1Pet 4:8-10 (NKJV) 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." 9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. 10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

**- Love one another – 13 times**

**Purpose of heart-** Greek *prothesis*- *a setting forth*, specifically used for the showbread as exposed before God- Used 12 times; 4 times specifically translated showbread, 7 times refers to God's purpose and once in Acts 27 to refer to man's purpose which turns out to be God's purpose

v.24 a good man full of the Holy Spirit and faith- his personal witness

v.26 called Christians- some say derogatorily called

- they called themselves believers, saints, brethren, disciples, those of the way- in the muslim world today they call themselves simply followers of Jesus
- think of how many in Scripture are called by derogatory names- Simon the Tanner, Matthew the publican, Rahab the harlot, Simon the leper
- the Greek scholar Thomas Newberry says it means divinely called
- can be both- what name the Lord uses often is used in a derogatory fashion by the world- Jesus Christ, Name above all names

v.28-30 lastly we see that they were gives, providers

Are we Christians? Can we really be called that? How serious are we about our faith? Is it a compartment of our life or is it our life? What is the church? Are we the church?