

Destin Church of Christ

October 8, 2023

Chapter 28: New Beginnings

Acts 1 – 10; 12

Introduction:

In chapter 28 of *The Story*, God tells his people that the grace they have received, the love they are experiencing, the amazing fellowship they share as a community of believers, the forgiveness of sins, and the restored relationship they have with God should not be hoarded and kept hidden. God calls his people, then and now, to share the good news and hope found in Jesus alone.

Lesson Breakdown:

- Final Lessons (Acts 1)
- Fire (Acts 2-5)
- Martyr and Missionaries (Acts 6-8)
- The Voice (Acts 9)
- What God Made Clean (Acts 10)
- The Hammer Falls (Acts 12)

Plot Points:

- Having given his disciples final instructions, Jesus ascends into heaven with a promise to return.
- At the Pentecost festival, the Holy Spirit falls on the disciples, unleashing powerful ministry of the gospel in words and in deeds of healing.
- The disciples are transformed from fearful cowards to fearless preachers in the face of the religious leaders' persecution.
- The death of Stephen, the first martyr, is a catalyst for the spread of the message and the growth of the church.
- The Gentiles are welcomed into the fellowship of the church and are no longer "unclean," excluded from membership in God's family.

As you watch the video for Session 28, notice some of the main points.

- ✓ The rest of the Bible tells of God's relentless pursuit of us.
- ✓ Now it's time for a new community with a new mission.
- ✓ The 12 disciples wait patiently in the upper room for the Holy Spirit to come.
- ✓ Everyone was filled with awe.
- ✓ This is where our lives intersect with the Upper Story.

UNDERSTAND THE STORY:

Acts:

Chapter 1:

The previous account was of what Jesus began to do and teach. Before his ascension, Jesus tells the disciples they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. (389) [Acts 1:1-5]

Who wrote the Book of Acts?

In verse 1, to what is he referencing as the “previous account”?

What two books make up 27.5% of the New Testament?

Who was Theophilus? [Luke 1:3]

Jesus refuses to answer questions about when the second coming will be but says they will be witnesses to Him. (389) [Acts 1:6-8]

While the disciples watched, Jesus ascends to Heaven. Two men in white robes tell them that Jesus will return in the same way that he has ascended. (390) [Acts 1:9-11]

The disciples return to Jerusalem. Barsabas (surnamed Justus) and Matthias are candidates as a replacement for Judas. Matthias is chosen by lot. (NIB) [Acts 1:12-26]

Chapter 2:

At Pentecost, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm. Tongues of fire descend on the disciples. They are filled with the Holy Spirit and able to speak in tongues. (390) [Acts 2:1-4]

Witnesses hear their own language being spoken. (390-391) [Acts 2:5-13]

Peter preaches a sermon, saying the disciples are not drunk, but filled with the Holy Spirit, as foretold by Joel. (391) [Acts 2:14-21]

Peter tells the Israelites that God, through Jesus, had done miracles, wonders and signs. They had put him to death by nailing him to the cross. (391-392) [Acts 2:22-24]

God had raised him from the dead, which they all witnessed. (392) [Acts 2:32-33]

Peter tells those present to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Three thousand are baptized. (392) [Acts 2:36-41]

The Christian community that is formed share possessions when there was a need. They met together daily to eat food and worship God. They had favor with all the people and the Lord added to the church daily. (392) [Acts 2:42-47]

Chapter 3:

While going to the temple with John, Peter heals a man lame from birth. (392-393) [Acts 3:1-10]

After seeing this, the people were greatly amazed and ran to Peter and John in Solomon's porch (Portico). Peter preaches for the people to repent and be converted so their sins may be blotted out. (393-394) [Acts 3:11-20]

Chapter 4:

Peter and John are arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter addresses the court. (394) [Acts 4:1-12]

Peter and John are asked to leave while the Sanhedrin confer amongst themselves. Peter and John are commanded not to speak about nor teach in the name of Jesus. (394-395) [Acts 4:13-18]

What was Peter and John's response? (395) [Acts 4:19-20]

Finding no way of punishing them, Peter and John are let go. (395) [Acts 4:21]

Those who believed were of one heart and one soul and had all things in common. If someone had a need, others would sell their lands or houses and lay the proceeds at the apostles' feet. (395) [Acts 4:32-35]

Barnabas sells his land and lays the money at the apostles' feet. (NIB) [Acts 4:36-37]

Chapter 5:

A man named Ananias and his wife Sapphira sell their possessions but keep back some of the proceeds. Peter rebukes them for lying, and they both fall down dead. (NIB) [Acts 5:1-11]

The apostles perform many signs and wonders (miracles) throughout the city, with many being healed. The people were so amazed that some sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. (395-396) [Acts 5:12-16]

The high priest has the apostles put into prison again, but an angel frees them. (396) [Acts 5:17-21]

The apostles are arrested once more, Peter says we ought to obey God rather than men and boldly stands as witness to the crucified and risen Christ. (396) [Acts 5:22-32]

A Pharisee called Gamaliel advises the Sanhedrin to do nothing. If they work by the power of men, their movement will quickly peter out. After being told not to speak in the name of Jesus, the apostles resume preaching with joy. (397) [Acts 5:33-42]

When and where did their preaching continue? (397) [Acts 5:42]

Chapter 6:

Stephen did great wonders and signs among the people but is accused of blasphemy by false witnesses. (397-398) [Acts 6:8-15]

Chapter 7:

The high priest asked if it was true. (398) [Acts 7:1]

Israel resists the Holy Spirit as their ancestors did in the past, killing prophets who foretold the coming of the Righteous One. (398) [Acts 7:51-53]

Full of the Holy Spirit, Stephen has a vision of the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Father. (398) [Acts 7:54-56]

Stephen is stoned to death. (399) [Acts 7:57-58a]

Who is supervising the execution? (399) [Acts 7:58b]

What did Stephen do while being stoned? (399) [Acts 7:59-60]

Chapter 8:

The church is persecuted at the hands of Saul and scatters. Philip successfully preaches the gospel to the Samaritans. There was great joy in that city. (399) [Acts 8:1-8]

The Lord directs Philip to an Ethiopian government official, who is reading the book of Isaiah. The Ethiopian confesses Christ and is baptized. (NIB) [Acts 8:26-40]

Chapter 9:

Traveling to Damascus to persecute Christians, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around Saul. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, '*Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?*' When he opened his eyes, he was blind. For three days he was blind, and he did not eat or drink. (399-400) [Acts 9:1-9]

In a vision, the Lord tells a disciple at Damascus named Ananias to inquire at the house of Judas for *one* called Saul of Tarsus, because he is praying (seeker). Ananias says he's heard about the harm (*bad things*) Saul has done to the saints in Jerusalem. God says Saul is a chosen vessel and will bear God's name before Gentiles, kings, and the children (*sons*) of Israel. (400) [Acts 9:10-16]

Is this the same Ananias, who along with his wife Sapphira, was struck dead for lying in Acts 5:1-11?

Ananias lays hands on Saul, and the scales fall from his eyes. Saul is baptized. (400) [Acts 9:17-19]

“God opened Saul’s eyes (literally) so he could open the eyes (figuratively) of non-believers.” ~~ Lynn Henley

Immediately, to everyone's amazement, Saul preached (*Jesus*) the Christ in the synagogues. (400) [Acts 9:20-22]

The Jews plot to kill Saul, so he escapes in a basket through an opening in the wall. (400-401) [Acts 9:23-25]

Saul meets up with the initially wary Christians in Jerusalem, and disputes against the Hellenists (Greek-speaking Jews). (401) [Acts 9:26-31]

The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was edified. (401) [Acts 9:26-31]

Chapter 10:

Cornelius, a God-serving Roman centurion in Caesarea, is told by an angel to go to Peter. (Warren Wiersbe – *“Cornelius was devout, honest, generous, and sincere; but he was not a saved man.”*) Cornelius sends a delegation to Joppa. (401) [Acts 10:1-8]

Peter has a trance, in which a sheet comes down from heaven. The sheet has all kinds of clean and unclean animals on it. The Lord invites him to eat, and Peter refuses, saying he has never touched anything unclean. This happens three times, and the sheet reascends to heaven. (402) [Acts 10:9-16]

Afterward, Peter is called by messengers to Caesarea to meet Cornelius. (402) [Acts 10:17-23]

Cornelius with his relatives and friends were assembled at his house when Peter arrived. Cornelius falls down to worship Peter, but Peter says that he is merely a man. Peter keeps company with Cornelius, despite the fact it is forbidden for a Jew to do so. (402-403) [Acts 10:24-28]

Cornelius tells how a man in dazzling clothes had appeared before him four days prior. (NIB) [Acts 10:29-43].

While Peter was speaking, preaching the risen Christ, *“the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on them just as it had been on the Jewish believers on the day of Pentecost.”* (403) [Acts 10:44]

They began to speak in tongues and was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. (NIB) [Acts 10:46-48]

This is thought to be one of if not the first Gentile conversions to Christianity.

Chapter 12:

Herod (the nephew of Antipas) harasses the church, and kills the apostle James. Peter is arrested during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. (403) [Acts 12:1-5]

An angel causes Peter’s chains to fall off and helps him to escape. (403) [Acts 12:6-7]

The angel told Peter to put on his sandals and garment. They left the jail, going past the first and the second guard posts. When they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, it opened on its own accord. Immediately the angel departed from him. (403-404) [Acts 12:8-11]

Peter goes to the house of Mary, mother of John. A girl named Rhoda tells the apostles Peter has come, but she is not believed until they see Peter themselves. (404) [Acts 12:12-17]

Herod orders that the prison guards are put to death. (404) [Acts 12:18-19]

Herod makes an oration to the people of Tyre and Sidon and is praised by them as a god rather than a man. On this, an angel strikes (Herod) him dead, because he does not glory to God. (404-405) [Acts 12:20-24]

Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem. (NIB) [Acts 12:25]

“It was also during this time that Saul got a name change to “Paul.”” (405)

In two weeks ... we’ll look at chapter 29, the story of Paul’s missionary journeys and how God expanded the church far beyond the borders of Israel.

Acts 13 – 14; 16 – 20; Romans 1; 3 – 6; 8; 12; 15; 1 Corinthians 1; 3; 5 – 6; 10; 12 – 13; 15 – 16; Galatians 1; 3; 5 – 6; 1 Thessalonians 1 – 5