



Part 3: Surviving Fear

May 16 & 17, 2015

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An often forgotten fact:

Jesus' followers established the first church while Herod, Pilate and Caiaphas were still ruling in Jerusalem.

Highlights of Acts 1-2 and Pentecost

- The Holy Spirit comes
- The apostles speak in languages they don't previously know
- Peter preaches a simple gospel:

²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. – Acts 2:22-24

- People are saved:

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. – Acts 2:37-38

The Church is Formed in the Middle of Survival Mode

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. – Acts 2:42-47

Though they were in survival mode...

They didn't rely on earthly wisdom;
they grounded themselves in godly wisdom (vs. 42)

They didn't pull away; they pressed in (vs. 42)

They didn't eat alone; they ate together (vs. 42)

They didn't pout; they prayed (vs. 42)

They developed a sense of awe, not a sense of doubt (vs. 43)

They didn't focus on their own needs; they met others' needs (vs. 44-45)

They didn't isolate; they gathered (vs. 46)

They didn't give up; they gave thanks (vs. 46)

They didn't focus in; they focused out (vs. 47)

Next Steps

Meeting someone else's survival need can help keep us from getting caught up in our own need. You can help meet some of these needs by giving toward the missions offering today. Details are on today's program insert.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What are your plans for Memorial Day weekend? Why do you do what you do on that day?
- 2) What's the most amazing thing God has ever done in or for you? You may not be able to compete with "tongues of fire and foreign languages," but I'm sure you have a story worth telling.
- 3) What is attractive to you about the very first church in Acts? What do you think is missing from modern church that the first century believers did naturally?
- 4) What practices of the first church could you apply to help you break the hold of survival mode?
- 5) What do you need prayer for today?

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