

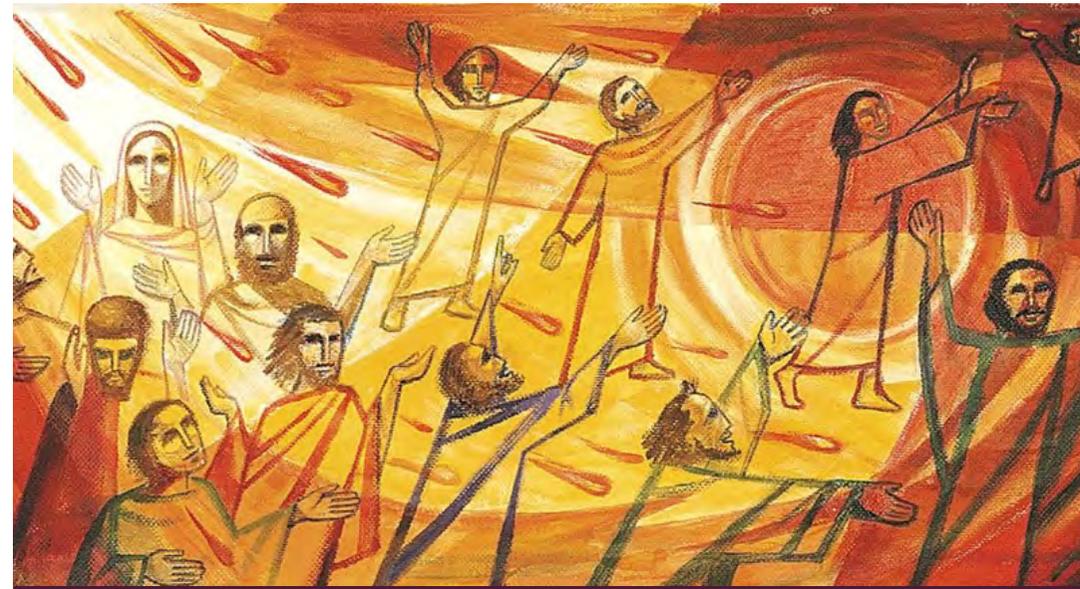


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Registered Charity No. 1133048



# THE ACTS of THE APOSTLES

**GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS  
at ST JAMES'S PICCADILLY**

**Session six:  
Sunday 14th October 2018**

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES  
GOSPEL CONVERSATIONS AT ST JAMES'S PICCADILLY**

**Sunday 9th September**

Acts Chapters 1 and 2 "The Holy Spirit"

**Sunday 16th September**

Acts 5.17-42, Acts 13.42-52, Acts 19.1-7 "The Holy Spirit"

**Sunday 23rd September**

Acts Chapters 5 and 6 "The Early Church"

**Sunday 30th September**

Acts 20.7-end, 16.6-15 "The Early Church"

**Sunday 7th October**

Acts 2.1-29, Chapter 4 "Peter"

**Sunday 14th October**

Acts 9.1-31, Chapter 22 "Paul"

**Sunday 21st October**

Acts 10.9-16, 11.1-18 "a new world"

**Sunday 28th October**

Acts 27.39- 28.31 "a new world"

Each Sunday in the Church Hall, coffee and croissants available from 9.15am with informal discussion. Sessions begin at 9.30am and end at 10.35am.

All sessions facilitated by Debbie O'Brien with The Revd Lucy Winkett. Contact [secretary@sjp.org.uk](mailto:secretary@sjp.org.uk) with queries.

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

me a large sum of money to get my citizenship.' Paul said, 'But I was born a citizen.' <sup>29</sup>Immediately those who were about to examine him drew back from him; and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.

**Paul before the Council**

30 Since he wanted to find out what Paul was being accused of by the Jews, the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and the entire council to meet. He brought Paul down and had him stand before them.

**Next Sunday - 21st October**

Acts 10.9-16, 11.1-18 "a new world"

12 'A certain Ananias, who was a devout man according to the law and well spoken of by all the Jews living there, <sup>13</sup>came to me; and standing beside me, he said, "Brother Saul, regain your sight!" In that very hour I regained my sight and saw him. <sup>14</sup>Then he said, "The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear his own voice; <sup>15</sup>for you will be his witness to all the world of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup>And now why do you delay? Get up, be baptized, and have your sins washed away, calling on his name."

### Paul Sent to the Gentiles

17 'After I had returned to Jerusalem and while I was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance <sup>18</sup>and saw Jesus saying to me, "Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me." <sup>19</sup>And I said, "Lord, they themselves know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. <sup>20</sup>And while the blood of your witness Stephen was shed, I myself was standing by, approving and keeping the coats of those who killed him." <sup>21</sup>Then he said to me, "Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles." '

### Paul and the Roman Tribune

22 Up to this point they listened to him, but then they shouted, 'Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.' <sup>23</sup>And while they were shouting, throwing off their cloaks, and tossing dust into the air, <sup>24</sup>the tribune directed that he was to be brought into the barracks, and ordered him to be examined by flogging, to find out the reason for this outcry against him. <sup>25</sup>But when they had tied him up with thongs, Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, 'Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who is uncondemned?' <sup>26</sup>When the centurion heard that, he went to the tribune and said to him, 'What are you about to do? This man is a Roman citizen.' <sup>27</sup>The tribune came and asked Paul, 'Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?' And he said, 'Yes.' <sup>28</sup>The tribune answered, 'It cost

## The Acts of the Apostles

Sunday 14th October 2018

### Acts 9.1-31, Chapter 22 "Paul"

#### The Conversion of Saul

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' <sup>5</sup>He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' <sup>7</sup>The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

10 Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles

and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’ <sup>17</sup>So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

### **Saul Preaches in Damascus**

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup>and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’ <sup>21</sup>All who heard him were amazed and said, ‘Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?’ <sup>22</sup>Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

### **Saul Escapes from the Jews**

<sup>23</sup> After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, <sup>24</sup>but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; <sup>25</sup>but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

### **Saul in Jerusalem**

<sup>26</sup> When he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. <sup>27</sup>But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. <sup>28</sup>So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup>He spoke and

argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. <sup>30</sup>When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

## **Chapter 22**

‘Brothers and fathers, listen to the defence that I now make before you.’

<sup>2</sup> When they heard him addressing them in Hebrew, they became even more quiet. Then he said:

<sup>3</sup> ‘I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God, just as all of you are today. <sup>4</sup>I persecuted this Way up to the point of death by binding both men and women and putting them in prison, <sup>5</sup>as the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. From them I also received letters to the brothers in Damascus, and I went there in order to bind those who were there and to bring them back to Jerusalem for punishment.

### **Paul Tells of His Conversion**

<sup>6</sup> ‘While I was on my way and approaching Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. <sup>7</sup>I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” <sup>8</sup>I answered, “Who are you, Lord?” Then he said to me, “I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.” <sup>9</sup>Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. <sup>10</sup>I asked, “What am I to do, Lord?” The Lord said to me, “Get up and go to Damascus; there you will be told everything that has been assigned to you to do.” <sup>11</sup>Since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, those who were with me took my hand and led me to Damascus.