



St James's Church, Piccadilly

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THE ACTS of THE APOSTLES

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

**Session five:
Sunday 7th 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 with queries.

EVERYONE WELCOME

The Believers Share Their Possessions

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means 'son of encouragement'). ³⁷He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Sunday 14th October

Acts 9.1-31, Chapter 22 "Paul"

no more to anyone in this name.’¹⁸ So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.¹⁹ But Peter and John answered them, ‘Whether it is right in God’s sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; ²⁰for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.’²¹ After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened.²² For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old.

The Believers Pray for Boldness

²³ After they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.²⁴ When they heard it, they raised their voices together to God and said, ‘Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them,²⁵ it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant:

“Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples imagine vain things?

²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand,
and the rulers have gathered together
against the Lord and against his Messiah.”

²⁷ For in this city, in fact, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed,²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.²⁹ And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness,³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’³¹ When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.

The Acts of the Apostles

Sunday 7th October 2018

Acts 2.1-29, Chapter 4 “Peter”

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them.⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each.⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, ‘Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?’⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language?⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.’¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’¹³ But others sneered and said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning.¹⁶ No, this is what

was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.

²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

²² ‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; ²⁶therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

²⁹ ‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

Chapter 4

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, ²much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. ³So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.

¹¹This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.”

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

¹³ Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. ¹⁴When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. ¹⁵So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. ¹⁶They said, ‘What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak