

# Acts

## Lesson 3

# Peter's 2<sup>nd</sup> Sermon

# Who is Peter Addressing?

## Men of Israel

*Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "**Men of Israel**, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?*

## *What information is provided in the sermon?*

- You delivered [Jesus] over [to your chief priests and elders] (Acts 3:13)
- You denied [Him] in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. (Acts 3:13)
- You denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, (Act 3:14)
- You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. (Act 3:15)

*Act 3:13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus,*

# How does Peter connect the gospel to the current events:

Faith in Jesus healed the man

*Act 3:16 And his name--by faith in his name--has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.*

# What action does he require of his listeners?

Repent!

*Act 3:19-20 Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus*

# What Old Testament scriptures does Peter use?

*\*Isa 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.*

*Deu 18:18 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.*

*Gen 22:18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."*

## *What do the scriptures explain?*

- The Messiah would have to suffer (Isa 53)
- The Messiah is the prophet whom they should listen to (Deut 18:18)
- The Messiah would bless all the nations (Gen 22:18)

*Act 3:18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.*

*Act 3:22 Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.'*

*Act 3:25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'*



## *What surprises you about Peter's message?*

- They delivered their deliverer to capture
- They convinced Pilate to hold the one he had decided to free.
- They preserved a murderer, a destroyer of life; and destroyed the Saviour, the author of life.
- They killed the author of life, but God raised Him up

# What were the results of the sermon?

Two Thousand more saved!

*Act 4:4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.*

# Who is Peter Addressing in His Third Sermon?

Rulers of the people and elders,

*Act 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,*

## *What information is provided in the sermon?*

- You crucified, Jesus Christ of Nazareth
- God raised Jesus Christ of Nazareth from the dead—
- By Jesus Christ of Nazareth this man is standing before you well.

# How does Peter connect the gospel to the current events?

The name that healed is the only name that saves

*Act 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

# What Old Testament scriptures does Peter use?

*Act 4:11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.*

*Psa 118:22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*

# What does the scripture explain?

That the chief priest and rulers of the people would reject the Messiah.

*Act 4:11 This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.*

## *What surprises you about Peter's message?*

- Peter uses the phrase: "Jesus Christ of Nazareth"

*Matthew 2:23 And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."*

*Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*



# What were the results of the sermon?

Nothing mentioned

*Act 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus*

# Acts Lesson 3

## Church Problems (Acts 5-6)

The early church had no problems,  
right?

# What did Ananias & Sapphira do wrong?

Lie!

*Acts 5:1-2 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet*

# What was Peters contention?

The land was at their disposal they could have kept some of the money but they chose to lie about it.

*Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."*

*What was at stake here?*

Appearance of being spiritual (Hypocrisy)

*Act 5:11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.*

# *What do we learn about the Holy Spirit?*

He is God. He is a person

*Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."*

*What did the Apostles use as a place of worship?*

## The temple's outer courts

*Act 5:12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.*

*John 10:23 and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon.*

*Who are “the rest”?*

People like Ananias and Sapphira?

*Acts 5:13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.*



*What was the result of the  
healings?*

Multitudes of both men and women,  
were getting saved.

*Act 5:14 And more than ever believers were added  
to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,*

# *What extraordinary things did the Holy Spirit do through the Apostles?*

The sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits were all healed.

*Act 5:15-16 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.*

*Who is it that stirs up trouble for the  
Apostles again?*

## The Sadducees

*Act 5:17 But the high priest rose up, and all who  
were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees),  
and filled with jealousy*

*What kind of prison were the  
Apostles placed in?*

Public

*Act 5:18 they arrested the apostles and put them in  
the public prison.*

# *What were the results of the action against the Apostles?*

*An angel broke them out and encouraged them to preach in the temple*

*Act 5:19-21 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life." And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach.*

*What law did the Apostles abide by?*

## God's Law

*Act 5:27-29 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.*

# *Why is the significance of this?*

Civil disobedience is appropriate when God's law is violated.

*Act 4:19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,*

*How does Peter capitalize on this?*

Peter uses this as an opportunity to  
preach

*.Acts 5:30-33 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them.*



## *Who is Gamaliel*

A Pharisee in the council, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people,  
Saul's teacher.

*Acts 5:34 But a Pharisee in the council named **Gamaliel**, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while.*

*Acts 22:3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of **Gamaliel** according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day.*

# *What is Gamaliel's counsel concerning the Apostles?*

**Don't oppose these men, You might even be found opposing God!**

*Acts 5:39 So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!" So they took his advice,*

# *What is the result concerning the Apostles?*

They are beaten and glad of it.

*Acts 5:40-41 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.*

# *What is the result concerning the Church?*

The Apostles continue teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ every day, in the temple and from house to house

*Act 5:42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.*

# *Why is the significance of this?*

They continued to teach in the temple

They did not consider themselves not to be Jewish. The Temple still was their center for the worship of God.

# *What is the next problem the Apostles face?*

Greek speaking Jews were overlooked in the distribution of food.

*Act 6:1 Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.*

## *What was the solution?*

Pick seven men whom we will appoint to  
this duty

*Act 6:3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.*

*What were the qualifications of these seven men ?*

Of good repute

Full of the Spirit

Full of wisdom

*Act 6:3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.*



## *What are the results?*

What they said pleased the whole gathering

*Act 6:5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.*

*Why is the significance of  
this?*

## First Deacons?

1Ti 3:10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.

1Ti 3:13 For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

# *Who did they choose?*

Stephen

Philip

Prochorus

Nicanor

Timon

Parmenas

Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

## *What is a “proselyte?”*

*A “proselyte” is one who is converted from one religion to another (See Mat 23:15). The word does not mean here that he was a convert to “Christianity” - which was true - but that he had been converted at Antioch from paganism to the Jewish religion. **As this is the only proselyte mentioned among the seven deacons, it is evident that the others were native-born Jews,** though a part of them might have been born out of Palestine, and have been of the denomination of “Grecians,” or “Hellenists.”*

*Why is the significance of  
this?*

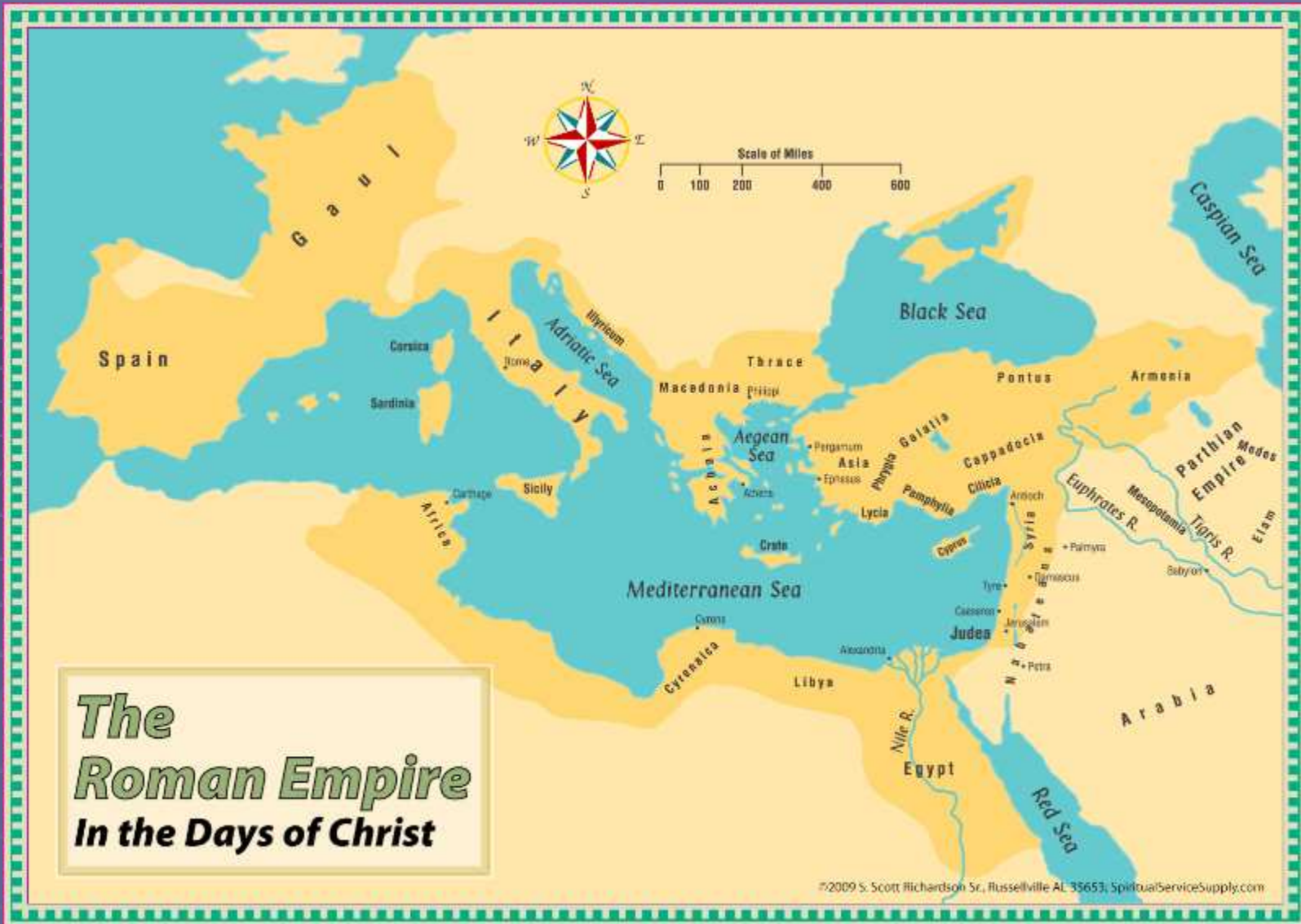
## Stephen was a Jew

Act 6:9-10 Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking.

## *Where is Antioch?*

*This city, often mentioned in the New Testament (Acts 11:19-20, Acts 11:26; Acts 15:22, Acts 15:35; Gal 2:11, etc).*

See Map



Antioch is just north of Palistine

# Antioch

*This city was situated in Syria, on the river Orontes, and is now part of Turkey and is called “Antakia. It was built by Seleucus Nicanor, 301 B.C., and was named “Antioch,” in honor of his father Antiochus. It became the seat of empire of the Syrian kings of the Macedonian race, and afterward of the Roman governors of the eastern provinces. Josephus says it was the third city in size of the Roman provinces, being inferior only to **Seleucia and Alexandria**. In this place the disciples of Christ were first called “Christians,” (Acts 11:26).*