

SERMON DISCUSSION

QUESTIONS

JANUARY 10, 2021

Acts: The Kingdom Advances – The Spirit Comes

Connor Neigenfind

WARM-UP

1. The Book of Acts of the Apostles is the story of the earliest church – the *ekklesia*. But it is our story too, because the story hasn't yet finished. Do you currently have efforts or experiences in your life that have begun, maybe a long time ago, but are not yet finished? If so, describe the situation and where are you at in this experience now? Do you know what the conclusion looks like or will be? If so, what is it and how do you know?

DIGGING DEEPER

Today, Pastor Connor continues the preaching series on the New Testament Book, The Acts of the Apostles. Today, he explores one of the most significant and profound miracles of the early church, and one that continues with every believer today.

THE MIRACLE OCCURS – Read: Acts 2:1-4

2. Let's get grounded – this episode takes place on the Jewish festival of Shavuot, or the Feast of Weeks. We also know it as the festival of Pentecost. Share with each other what you know about this Jewish festival. What are all the particulars? Read Leviticus 23:15-22, Deuteronomy 16:9-12, and Deuteronomy 16:16-17. What do these passages tell us? Why is all this important for this Acts episode?
3. What does verse 2:4 tell us happened? How do we understand this verse, specifically? Was it a miracle? How so?

SOMETHING INCREDIBLE JUST HAPPENED – Read: Acts 2:5-11

4. In verses 2:5-8, what was the result of the coming of the Holy Spirit? How did the people in the crowd react? Is this understandable? If so, why? How would you have reacted? Why?
5. Verses 2:9-11 describe where this crowd was from. Generally describe the locations mentioned – why is it significant that this miracle occurred on Pentecost? And in verse 11, what was being said to all these people in their own languages? Why is this important? Do we experience anything similar to this today (hint: think His Word)?

EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT – Read: Acts 2:12-13

6. From these two verses, Connor suggested that there were two groups of reaction to this miracle – those who believed and those who dismissed it, mocked it, and actually “missed the miracle.” Do these two reactions surprise us? Do these two reactions still occur today? If so, how, and why?
7. Connor said that the Spirit of God was essential for these men to do what Jesus commanded them to do (in verse 1:8). And, as believers, this is our story too. Read John 14:16-17 and 25-26. What is the context for these verses? What is Jesus saying to the eleven disciples? As believers, are these words for us today? How so?
8. But, as Connor asked us to consider, the question remains, are we living out what we believe? Do we embrace the Holy Spirit in our lives, or do we keep Him at arm’s length? How would you answer this for yourself? How would you answer this for EAC collectively? If the answer is ‘yes’, what do we do about it?

PRAYER

As we consider the Holy Spirit’s presence, working, and influence in our lives, pray that God will show you His Authority and His Ways in order that you will be further empowered to do His Will. Prayerfully consider if you are keeping the Holy Spirit at arm’s length – even a little – and if so, ask God to soften your heart further to accept His direction and plans for your life, so that His mission can be your mission, and our mission at EAC. Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would give you ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to respond to His call to you, in order to be His hands and feet in this world.

In case you missed the service, here are the EAC, Facebook, and YouTube links:

<http://edgewateralliance.org/media/sermon-videos>

<https://www.facebook.com/edgewateralliance/>

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWvQTWUv1FD_qsUJUZn93kw