

“The Story” Study – The Book of Acts and Some Epistles

Class 15: Chapters 28-29

Chapter 28: New Beginnings

1. DVD – Session 28
2. Chapter 28 Highlights: This chapter includes accounts from the first-half of the book of Acts:
 - a. Notice the timeline at the bottom of page 389.
 - b. Chapter 1: Jesus gave instructions about the coming Holy Spirit; then ascended into heaven, ___ days after He rose from the dead.
 - c. Chapter 2: The Day of Pentecost, one of seven OT festivals, which took place ___ days after Jesus’ resurrection.
 - i. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles; each of those gathered – from all over the world – “heard their own language being spoken” (390).
 - ii. Peter addressed the large crowd by explaining a prophecy from the book of Joel (391) and proclaiming God’s plan through Jesus, who is “both Lord and Messiah.” The people were “cut to the heart” and told to “repent and be baptized” for the forgiveness of their sins (392).
 - iii. The believers “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.... [they also] had everything in common” (392).
 - d. Chapters 3-4: The Lord worked through Peter to heal a lame man; then Peter preached about Jesus’ death and resurrection, and called the people to repent.
 - e. Chapter 5: The apostles were arrested; then freed by an angel. The authorities were upset with them, so they beat them; the apostles left “rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name” (397).
 - f. Chapters 6-8: Deacons were chosen to assist the apostles; one of them was Stephen – “a man full of God’s grace and power” (397). Then, much like Jesus, he was falsely accused and, after proclaiming the truth, was stoned to death. The Christians in Jerusalem were scattered and “preached the word wherever they went” (399).
 - g. Chapter 9: The record of Saul’s conversion. Afterward, “when he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles” (401).
 - h. Chapter 10: Peter saw in a vision that no one is unclean; then he was summoned to the Gentile house of Cornelius; amazingly the Holy Spirit was poured out on them.
 - i. Chapter 12: James, the brother of John, was put to death; then Peter was put in prison, but he was miraculously rescued by an angel.
 - j. Chapter 13: From Antioch Paul and Barnabas were sent on their first missionary trip.

Chapter 29: Paul's Mission

1. DVD – Session 29
2. Chapter 29 Highlights: This chapter includes more accounts from the book of Acts, as well as a number of New Testament letters / epistles:
 - a. Notice the timeline at the bottom of page 407.
 - b. Acts Chapter 13: It was the Holy Spirit who called Paul and Barnabas to serve. The Lord worked powerfully through Paul; he said to a man, “You are going to be blind for a time... Immediately mist and darkness came over him” (408). The miracles helped the people know that Paul’s words could be trusted.
 - c. Acts Chapter 14: After performing a miracle in Lystra, the people tried to worship him as a god, but Paul refused. After preaching the Christ, a mob attacked Paul, stoned him, and left him for dead, but he “was revived and he walked back into the city” (411)! Paul and Barnabas parted ways, so Silas joined with Paul, then Timothy and Luke.
 - d. Acts Chapter 16: Regarding Lydia, “the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message” (412). Later, Paul and Silas were stripped, beaten with rods, and thrown into prison, yet they “were praying and singing hymns to God” (413). Even though after a violent earthquake everyone could have escaped, they stayed, which resulted in the conversion of the jailer and his family.
 - e. Acts Chapter 17: They were in Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens.
 - f. Acts Chapter 18: In Corinth Paul met Aquila and Priscilla, and stayed for about 18 months; while there he wrote 1 Thessalonians. Paul told of his intentions when he wrote, “We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts” (417). He then went on to Ephesus where he met Apollos and stayed for two years.
 - g. Acts Chapter 19: In Ephesus people who did not know Jesus were trying to use His name to drive out demons, yet they were very unsuccessful. Those who made the statues of the false god, Artemis, were also very angry with Paul, since he was hurting their business. While in Ephesus, Paul wrote the letter we know as 1 Corinthians; finally Paul left for Macedonia.
 - h. The Story touches on parts of 1 Corinthians, chapters 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16.
 - i. The Story touches on parts of Galatians: “All who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law’” (430).
 - j. The story touches on parts of Romans on pages 432-436.
3. Assignment: Read chapters 30-31, the next class is on Thursday, June 30 at 7:30.