

CONCERNING THE WAY

February 16, 2010

LESSON 91: THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES



Chapter 3

Acts 3:1-2 One afternoon, Peter and John were on their way to the temple for the three o'clock prayer time. (2) Now a man who had been crippled from birth was being carried in. Every day people would lay him at what was called the Beautiful Gate so that he could beg from those who were going into the temple.

The "Beautiful Gate" is a name only Luke uses, so no one is sure which gate of the temple this was. For Jews, there was mandatory prayer in the Temple or synagogue twice a day – at 9 AM and 3 PM, which was about the same time as the morning and evening sacrifices. Many Jews also practiced a home prayer service at noon. This tradition has been passed down through the centuries, and today Orthodox Jews pray together in a morning service, afternoon service, and evening service.

These early Christians, being Jews, were still observing the customs of Judaism, like circumcision, Sabbath observance, and keeping kosher. Believing in Christ did not make them non-Jewish in their practices. But they did not do it because it was the law, but because they saw value in it. What made them different from other Jews is that they believed that Jesus was Messiah and He had fulfilled the Law. These practices were normal in the early church.

"It must be remembered that in first century Israel, Judaism was not only a religious system, but a national way of life, the ancient law of the land. It would have been exceedingly difficult to extricate religious responsibilities from national duties or even from simple cultural expressions." Steven Ger

This man had been lame all of his life and was forced to make a career out of begging. He was carried by good hearted people to this place every day, which was a great place to be – right where people streamed past to go to the temple. And he probably was able to make enough to support himself, because giving to the poor was very important to the Jewish people – it was considered part of being righteous.

Acts 3:3-6 When he saw that Peter and John were about to go into the temple, he asked them to give him something. (4) Peter, along with John, looked him straight in the eye and said, "Look at us!" (5) So the man watched them closely, expecting to get something from them. (6) However, Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold, but I'll give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus the Messiah from Nazareth, walk!"

Here's something you may have never thought of. How did Peter know he could heal this man? How did he know he would have the power? Well, we don't know for sure, but it seems that the Holy Spirit had witnessed to the apostles that He would be doing some amazing things through them. And they knew that healing was one of the signs given to Israel that they were from God, just like with Jesus.

They commanded the man to walk in the name of Jesus. Invoking the name of Jesus isn't some kind of magical incantation, but is commanding something to happen in the power and authority of Jesus. It wasn't the disciples doing the healing, but Jesus through the Holy Spirit. Notice that Peter and John

did not lay their hands on the beggar and pray for God to heal him. As apostles with the power of God to perform signs and wonders, they just told him to get up and walk.

How does this relate to today? Do we have healers like Peter and John today? Well, the apostle Paul mentions healers in his list of gifts of the Holy Spirit, but we believe that some of those gifts may have passed from the world, that they were only needed and necessary in the time of the apostles.

We simply don't know if we have any true healers today. We do know that there are many charlatans who claim to be able to heal people, like Benny Hinn and others of his ilk. There is no real evidence that these people have ever healed anyone and much evidence that they use all kinds of trickery to fool people and put on a good show. One thing's for sure, we don't have anyone raising people from the dead.

Now, of course, God still heals today. We can pray for healing, and God answers prayer. Sometimes the answer isn't what we want, but most of us know people who have been miraculously healed apart from what medical science can fully explain. But there are no healers like the original apostles today.

Acts 3:7-8 Then Peter took hold of his right hand and began to help him up. Immediately his feet and ankles became strong, (8) and he sprang to his feet, stood up, and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple, walking, jumping, and praising God.

How he was healed would have been important to Dr. Luke, so he tells us that the man's feet and ankles became strong. This is an indication of a true healing of God. The effect is instantaneous. It's not gradual and not hard to see the difference. It is immediate and obviously a miracle. It wasn't some slow gradual getting his feet under him and wobbling to a standing position. The Greek in verse 8 literally means he jumped up off the ground!

Acts 3:9-10 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, (10) they knew that he was the man who used to sit and beg at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

This wasn't some guy that Peter and John had brought in ahead of time that no one knew. It was someone everyone knew because he had been there for a long time. There was no trickery going on here, it was a real miracle. And the whole purpose of it was to bring glory to Jesus Christ and spread His gospel. It wasn't to exalt the apostles – you never see them flaunting their ability or taking advantage of it. We definitely never see them holding big “healing services”, dressed up in fancy clothes and taking up big offerings.

Acts 3:11 While he was holding on to Peter and John, all the people came running to them in what was called "Solomon's Colonnade". They were dumbfounded.

Of course, this was the point, to get people's attention so they would listen to what the apostles would say about Jesus. *Solomon's Colonnade*, or *Portico*, as it says in some versions, was a covered walkway 225 yards long, formed by rows of columns supporting a roof and open on the inner side facing the center of the temple complex. It was located on the east side of the temple and was a place of teaching, debate, and just general conversation. It was a good place to be in inclement weather, since it was covered, so a lot of people tended to just hang out there.

Acts 3:12 When Peter saw this, he said to the people: "Fellow Israelites, why are you

wondering about this, and why are you staring at us as if by our own power or godliness we made him walk?

The people's natural reaction is to be amazed at these men who have this power. But Peter immediately deflects the credit to God. And notice he says it's not our power and not our godliness! It's not because we're great spiritual giants that we were able to do this! It was Christ in them.

Acts 3:13-15 **The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — the God of our ancestors — has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you betrayed and rejected in the presence of Pilate, even though he had decided to let him go. (14) You rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer released to you, (15) and you killed the source of life, whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses to that.**

The title "servant" comes from the "servant" of Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 52:13-53:12. Notice the irony Peter is stressing. They killed the source of life. And he wasn't just saying that the apostles were witnesses, but all of the people there in Jerusalem were witnesses to what happened. It didn't happen in a corner, it was very public. And over 500 people saw the risen Christ, according to Paul. That news spread quickly throughout Jerusalem. Also notice how Peter is bringing the Father into it. These people are not atheists, they know who God is. They're at the temple to worship Him.

Acts 3:16 **It is his name — that is, by faith in his name — that has healed this man whom you see and know. Yes, the faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.**

So this is how the faith "in Jesus name" works. It is faith in the person of Jesus Christ.

Acts 3:17-18 **"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance like your leaders. (18) This is how God fulfilled what he had predicted through the voice of all the prophets — that his Messiah would suffer.**

Acting in ignorance does not excuse their responsibility, just as it does not excuse us. We are still responsible. The phrase at the end of verse 18 is a common one throughout the gospels. The Messiah had to suffer first before He would be glorified.

Acts 3:19-20 **Therefore repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out, (20) so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and so that he may send the Messiah appointed for you — that is, Jesus.**

As we mentioned in our last lesson, repentance in the Jewish context is to change your thinking about who Jesus is – it is believing that He is the Messiah, and when that turning to Christ in faith happens, that's when your sins are blotted out.

Notice that Peter is still preaching the Kingdom to the Jews, that's the "times of refreshing". Some think this phrase just refers to the peace and nourishment we receive from the Holy Spirit when we trust Christ, or to various times of revival during the church age, but you can't fit that interpretation in here. It's not about the church! Look at the rest of the sentence. The context is the Kingdom - he is saying if they repent then Jesus will come back and establish His Kingdom. The "times of refreshing" will come from the literal bodily presence of Jesus Christ ruling here on earth.

Some don't believe this was a legitimate offer, since God knew that Israel would reject Him, but it is as

legitimate as any message of the gospel to a person who God knows will reject Him. Israel's repentance was to have had two purposes: (1) for individual Israelites there was forgiveness of sins, and (2) for Israel as a nation her Messiah would return to reign.

This is the same message that both John the Baptist and Jesus preached. He's appealing to them to turn to Jesus and He will then return to reign over them. We must assume that if Israel would have repented as a nation at that point, then Jesus would have come back and established His kingdom then. Of course, looking back from our point in time, we can see that the nation of Israel rejected Jesus and that is why He has not yet returned (Matthew 23:39; Romans 11:26). We who are living today benefit from Israel's rejection of their Messiah. But Jesus will not return until Israel repents (here and also Matthew 23:39).

So Jesus had to suffer, then He could come back and reign over the Jews in the Messianic Kingdom. But what happens between those two events? The Church! The Church is the mystery that is not revealed in the Old Testament that happens between the time of Christ's first coming and rejection by Israel, and His second coming to set up His Kingdom. Notice that Peter says the Messiah was appointed for "you", the Jews. We Gentiles are just blessed to be able to share in this appointment.

Acts 3:21-22 This one heaven must receive until the time all things are restored, which God declared from times long ago through his holy prophets. (22) Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must obey him in everything he tells you.'

Peter now uses scripture that all Jews would be familiar with, quoting from Deuteronomy 18:15, 19, a prophecy about Jesus. He is portraying Jesus as the "New Testament Moses". The "all things are restored" again refers to the Kingdom, and Jesus mentioned this in Matthew 19:28. The "all things" is not just spiritual blessings, it means ALL things. So everything will be "restored" to original perfection as in the Garden of Eden (also Revelation 21:5; 22:3).

Acts 3:23 Every person who does not obey that prophet will be destroyed and thus removed from the people.'

Now he quotes Deuteronomy 18:19. This is exactly what happened to the Jews. About halfway through the book of Acts the apostles quit preaching to the Jews and turned to the Gentiles, because of repeated rejection of their message by the Jews. And judgment fell on them in A.D. 70 when Israel and Jerusalem were destroyed by the Romans. Titus and his legions came down through Israel destroying village after village, then came and surrounded Jerusalem and besieged it. Unspeakable things happened as the people in Jerusalem began to starve. Massive immorality took over and many died of venereal disease.

Starvation led to the Jews resorting to eating their own children. Many tried to jump over the walls at night, and the Romans would capture them and crucify them along the roads, row after row of them. This went on for a year, until Titus finally decided to have his troops break into the city. They tore down the temple stone by stone. They took 100,000 young men and women, chained them together, and marched them to the seaport at Joppa and sent them to the salt mines of Egypt. They killed most of the remaining residents of the city and destroyed much of it.

The Jews had 37 years to consider the claims of Christ and turn to Him. How much more time do you think God will give this nation that is so quickly turning away from God? The majority of Jews and Gentiles in the United States and Israel are not paying attention to this prophecy. Judgment – the

wrath of God – is coming (read Jeremiah 30).

Acts 3:24-26 And all the prophets, from Samuel and those who followed him, have spoken about and announced these days. (25) You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your ancestors, saying to Abraham, 'And in your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed.' (26) God raised up his servant and sent him first to you, to bless you by turning each one of you from your iniquities."

Now Peter quotes Genesis 22:18, part of the Abrahamic Covenant. He is stressing that all these promises in the Old Testament are for you (the Jews). Verse 26 says Jesus was sent first to the Jews. And through them we Gentiles (the nations of the earth) have been blessed by the Messiah. But the establishing of the kingdom depended and still depends on Israel's response (Matthew 23:39; Romans 11:26).

Chapter 4

Acts 4:1-3 While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests and the commander of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to them, (2) angry because they were teaching the people and announcing in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. (3) So they seized them and put them in jail until the next day (for it was already evening).

There are three different groups of temple personnel here – priests, the temple guard, and the Sadducees. The historian Josephus tells us that the priesthood in the 1st century was over 20,000 men. They were divided into 24 divisions, with each priest serving for one week, twice a year (1 Chronicles 24:7-19). So, on any week of the year, there could be hundreds of priests serving in the temple complex. Also, every priest served in the temple during the three weeks of the three pilgrimage festivals – Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. So each priest spent about five weeks a year in Temple service. Most priests had other jobs like some kind of trade, or teaching during the rest of the year to make ends meet.

Then there were the Levites. Levites, of course, were descended from the tribe of Levi (they didn't have to be descended from Aaron, just be from the tribe of Levi). Levites by this time also served in the temple, but in more of a support role. They were Temple musicians, maintenance workers, and Temple guards. There were many more Levites than priests, so they didn't have to serve much time in the temple each year, and also had to support themselves in other ways.

The Captain of the Temple guard was like the chief of the temple police department. He was second only to the high priest in temple authority and could even serve temporarily as the high priest in an emergency.

The Sadducees were the other group mentioned here, but in fact most of the priests and temple guard were Sadducees. They were the liberal faction of the religious leadership of Israel, and opposed the traditions of the conservative Pharisees. The Sadducees were the controlling faction in Israel, and maintained that control by being friendly with the Romans. They were not popular among the people, and had the reputation of being rude and disagreeable.

They did not believe in angels, miracles, or resurrection and they basically controlled the temple and the theology of the nation. They only relied on the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. In other words, they rejected the writings of the prophets and books such as Psalms and Proverbs. So they were greatly annoyed (that's the meaning of the Greek here) because Peter was preaching about Jesus and resurrection. And Peter and John had to spend the night in jail.

Acts 4:4 But many of those who had listened to the message believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

So Peter's message is incredibly effective, and many people, who knew the truth of what Peter was saying because they either had seen or heard about the recent events about Jesus, came to believe. And this was just men, so there were probably many women who believed as well. The Church is growing by leaps and bounds!

Acts 4:5-6 On the next day, their rulers, elders, and experts in the law came together in Jerusalem. (6) Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others who were members of the high priest's family.

This would have been the Sadducees, Pharisees, and scribes (the entire Sanhedrin) all coming together to talk about this. The Sanhedrin, the supreme court and administrative body of the Jews, consisted of 71 members, including the high priest. Most of them were Sadducees. In Acts this was the first of four times some of Jesus' followers were brought before the Sanhedrin (also Peter and the apostles, 5:27; Stephen, 6:12; and Paul, 22:30). There is a good possibility that Paul (then called Saul) might have been present at this hearing, as he would have been at least a "Pharisee-in-training" then and students were often invited to meetings of the Sanhedrin.

They were getting very worried about the massive number of people who were believing the apostles' message about Jesus. Remember that the high priesthood had been controlled by the family of Annas since about 6 A.D., and all of these guys, all part of the family, had been high priests at one time. The stone burial ossuary of Caiaphas in the tomb of Annas was discovered in 1994 near the Hinnom Valley in Jerusalem.

Acts 4:7 After making Peter and John stand in their midst, they began to inquire, "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

They are referring to both the message given by Peter and the healing of the lame man. They were asking "Who gave you the authority to do this?"

Acts 4:8-10 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, replied, "Rulers of the people and elders, (9) if we are being examined today for a good deed done to a sick man — by what means this man was healed — (10) let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, this man stands before you healthy.

The Holy Spirit came upon Peter and controlled Him, directing him what to say. This fulfilled Luke 12:11-12. Luke uses this common term to describe how the Holy Spirit influences a person. He uses the expression filled with the Holy Spirit eight times in his writings. In every case, the filling of the Holy Spirit enabled the person to speak or preach for God. So this filling of the Spirit is directly related to the prophetic ministry, the revelation or explanation of God's Word. This seems to be perhaps a higher level of filling than we receive when we ask the Holy Spirit to fill us in our everyday walk with Christ, the "keep on being filled with the Spirit" of Ephesians 5:18.

Peter got straight to the issue, telling them that it was by the authority of Jesus. And he pointed out that it was the man they crucified, and God raised Him from the dead.

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

Peter quotes Psalm 118:22, so he is saying that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. In biblical times, builders carved out a huge stone, sometimes as big as a car, which was triangular in shape. This was placed at a corner and would be the stone that all the other stones in the building would be placed from, so that all the stones would be straight and fit together. We still don't know to this day how they were able to cut stones like this so accurately. Peter is again pointing out that they (the religious leaders of Israel) rejected the Messiah.

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

Is that clear enough for you? You can't be saved by Allah, or Buddha, Vishnu, Mohammed, or any other god or man. Jesus isn't just one way of many. There is only salvation in Jesus, for Jews and everyone else. President Obama has said that they're not going to strike off all the Bible verses that are carved into government buildings all over Washington D.C., they're just going to interpret them as global truths for all religions, since we are now a pluralistic society, meaning that we embrace all religions as true and valid. No other president has ever said anything like this! Peter would have stood up that day, and said, "Wait a minute, sir, there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved." You can almost hear the thunder of judgment coming, can't you?

In context Peter was speaking not only of individual justification, but also of national salvation, predicted in Psalm 118. The religious rulers had rejected the only Savior of Israel and they were preventing the completion of God's plan. In verses 8-12 Peter, through the filling of the Holy Spirit, actually reverses the situation and puts his accusers on trial. This is a neat trick that Jesus did often.

Acts 4:13-14 When they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and discovered that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized these men had been with Jesus. (14) And because they saw the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say against this.

This tells us that it wasn't just Peter who spoke, but also John. The boldness and confidence of Peter and John came from the filling of the Holy Spirit. They weren't timid, they spoke up. "Uneducated" does not mean "illiterate," that is, unable to read or write. Among Jews in NT times there was almost universal literacy, because there were many synagogue schools. The term means that Peter and John had no formal rabbinic training and so, in the eyes of these "experts", these men were just laymen and not qualified to speak of the law or teach publicly.

And they could tell that Peter had been with Jesus. Oh, that people could tell by the way we speak that we have a personal relationship with Jesus! And these proud men can say nothing, because of the bold words of Peter, and the living evidence of the miracle standing right there with them. Intellectual or philosophical arguments are meaningless when met head on with direct evidence of the power of the gospel.

Acts 4:15-17 But when they had ordered them to go outside the council, they began to confer with one another, (16) saying, "What should we do with these men? For it is plain to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable miraculous sign has come about through them, and we cannot deny it. (17) But to keep this matter from spreading any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name."

Notice they do not accept what Peter says, that Jesus is the Messiah, which will bring down judgment on all of Israel. In fact, they even refuse to say His name; they just say "this name". For two thousand years most Jewish people refuse to even mention Jesus' name, except as a curse word. The Sanhedrin ignored the facts, as many do today, and just began to plot about how to stop it. They admit that it was a true miracle and that everyone in Jerusalem was going to know about it, and they are really worried about the message spreading, as well.

It's important to notice, too, that they didn't argue with the apostles or each other about the resurrection of Jesus. The easiest way to defuse this problem would have been to disprove the resurrection. They couldn't do it, which is huge evidence that it actually happened.

Acts 4:18-20 And they called them in and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. (19) But Peter and John replied, "Whether it is right before God to obey you rather than God, you decide, (20) for it is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard."

They tried to get the apostles to agree to just keep their mouths shut about Jesus. This is what the world is doing to us today. You can be a schoolteacher, but you can't speak about Jesus. You can be a licensed counselor, but you can't speak about Jesus. You can be a hospice worker, but you can't talk about Jesus. You can volunteer and do charity work, as long as you don't talk about Jesus.

How long will it be before the government says, "we'll let you have a radio or tv license, as long as you don't speak about Jesus." Or, "we'll give you a license to preach in church, as long as you don't preach about Jesus being the only way of salvation." It's coming quickly, folks. It happened in Nazi Germany, and it can happen here. The Bible has been moved more and more out of the culture, and once the teaching of the Bible is gone, anything can happen, and that's what we're starting to see in this country. Peter and John told them they cannot stop speaking about Jesus, and I hope that you will have the boldness and faith to also never stop speaking about Jesus.

Acts 4:21-22 After threatening them further, they released them, for they could not find how to punish them on account of the people, because they were all praising God for what had happened. (22) For the man, on whom this miraculous sign of healing had been performed, was over forty years old.

He was over forty, so no one could say that this man had just quickly recovered from an injury or illness, being a young man.

Acts 4:23-26 When they were released, Peter and John went to their fellow believers and reported everything the high priests and the elders had said to them. (24) When they heard this, they raised their voices to God with one mind and said, "Master of all, you who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, (25) who said by the Holy Spirit through your servant David our forefather, 'Why do the nations rage, and the peoples plot foolish things? (26) The kings of the earth stood together, and the rulers assembled together, against the Lord and against his Christ.'

The person praying is taking Psalm 2:1-2, in which David is speaking about Gentile nations, and applying to Israel here. They are acting like the heathen nations, standing together against the Father and Son. We also see here once again how the Bible was written – God speaking by the Holy Spirit through the human writers, in this case, David.

Acts 4:27-28 "For indeed both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, assembled together in this city against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, (28) to do as much as your power and your plan had decided beforehand would happen.

In this chapter we have seen that God is holding Israel and the Gentiles responsible for what happened to Jesus and will bring judgment on them, but in verse 28 we see again the sovereignty of God. God is 100% sovereign over everything in history, but man is still responsible for his actions.

Acts 4:29-30 And now, Lord, pay attention to their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your message with great courage, (30) while you extend your hand to heal, and to bring about miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

Notice that the believers did not ask that they would be protected, or that the persecution would stop, but that they would be given greater courage to speak the message about Jesus. What a lesson to us!

Acts 4:31 When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God courageously.

God answers their prayer immediately by manifesting His presence among them and filling them with the Holy Spirit. Notice it doesn't say they spoke in tongues here. There was no need to – they were all believers here that spoke the same language, and tongues was a sign to unbelievers.

Here again we have the filling of the Holy Spirit, which is when the Spirit comes upon you and controls you. As we studied last time, this is different than the baptism, or the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which happened at Pentecost and is a onetime permanent thing. It is not a "second blessing"; it is simply God's refueling His servants according to their needs in new situations.

It is a sovereign work of God, and we just have to be receptive and willing to be filled. We see this happen repeatedly during the book.

Acts 4:32 The group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one said that any of his possessions was his own, but everything was held in common.

Chapter 2 mentioned this attitude among the new church, and we discussed that this was not communism, but a reflection of their love and commitment to each other, which came from their love and identification with Jesus. This was done because of the special circumstances at the time and was not the practice among other churches. We should always be willing to share as needed, but this does not normally mean turning all possessions over to church leaders.

Acts 4:33-35 With great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was on them all. (34) For there was no one needy among them, because those who were owners of land or houses were selling them and bringing the proceeds from the sales (35) and placing them at the apostles' feet. The proceeds were distributed to each, as anyone had need.

People were voluntarily giving what they could, even houses and land, and distributing the proceeds to those of their group who were in need. This was a big deal, because there were many needy people in those days. There were no social security or health insurance benefits then. But by this time this group of believers had grown to a large number of people. Many of those saved so far in Acts were probably pilgrims who returned to their homes after the festival, but it is estimated there could have been as many as 20,000 believers in Jerusalem by this time, and included among them were people who were wealthy, some who were middle class, and some who were poor. They were just taking care of each other so that no one was needy.

Acts 4:36-37 So Joseph, a Levite who was a native of Cyprus, called by the apostles Barnabas (which is translated "son of encouragement"), (37) sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and placed it at the apostles' feet.

Luke introduces us to Barnabas here, who will have a bigger role later in Acts. The main reason we see him here is to show Barnabas and the rest of the church contrasted with Ananias and Sapphira (chap. 5). The generosity of the church and especially Barnabas were very different from the selfishness of that husband-wife team, as we'll see in the next lesson.