

Sermon Series Title: "Church Beginnings"

Sermon Series Summary: From now until around Easter, we will be in the book of Acts, covering chapters 1-12. After the Ascension of Jesus Christ, we see the NT church being born by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through this series, we see the church being built, the kingdom going forth, and the gospel being proclaimed.

"We are in our "Church Beginnings" sermon series, and through this series, we're going to see that we need to know where we come from to know who we are now and to know who we will become in the future."

Call: Deuteronomy 32:8-9

Text: Acts 5:12-16

Title: "Signs in the Church"

Next Week's Call: Deuteronomy 32:10-12

Next Week's Text: Psalm 87

Next Week's Title: "To Be Local"

Future Calls: Deuteronomy 32:13, 35-36, 39, 43

Future Titles: "Suffering in the Church" (Acts 5:17-42)

Fallen Condition Focus: There are needy and sick people in the world who need the gospel.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ works through the church to meet those needs and share the gospel by taking on all our needs to save and redeem us through the cross.

Proposition: "Though broken by sin, God still works through the church for His kingdom and glory."

Summary: We find ourselves in the aftermath of sin in the early church. However, instead of finding fallenness, we find fruitfulness. Signs and wonders are performed by the apostles at a glorious level, and the church is growing significantly. We see that God is answering the church's prayer from ch. 4 and is continuing the work of Christ through the church.

Reflective Questions:

1. What do we learn about the church's identity and calling in our passage?

2. How does this passage humble, encourage, and challenge you?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. The Setting

A. Ch. 5- Sin in the church (Ananias and Sapphira)

- 1. Possible for church to fall apart, Deceit and hypocrisy in the church; church is not as united, generous, humble as much as one would have thought
- 2. Judgment of death- great fear may have turned away people
- 3. But instead of seeing fallenness, we see fruitfulness.

B. Ch. 4- opposition/persecution in the church

- 1. Responsive prayer- Sovereignty of God, fulfillment of Scripture in Jesus' cross, speak the gospel with all boldness and healing and signs and wonders

C. God answers the prayer through sin and suffering in the church. There are signs and wonders, and many are added to the Lord (v. 14- more than ever).

- 1. This is God's church. He will bring it to completion and present her as blameless.
- 2. Matthew 16- after the confession of Peter, Jesus says that He will build His church, and not even the gates of hell will prevail against it.
 - 1. War imagery of the church advancing and hell retreating

III. The Signs (vv. 12, 15-16)

A. Signs and wonders

- 1. Described Jesus in 2:22
- 2. Described the church in 2:43
- 3. Signs that show that their message is the truth- apostles
- 4. Solomon's Portico- remembrance of the old temple

B. Peter's shadow would heal those whom he would pass.

- 1. Mark 5- touching Jesus' garment healed the bleeding woman
- 2. It's the faith of the woman that healed her.

C. People gather from the towns around Jerusalem to be healed from physical and spiritual.

IV. The Significance (vv. 13-14)

- A. V. 13- None of the rest join them, but the people hold them in high esteem.
- B. More than ever, believers are added to the Lord- both men and women.
- C. Many things about this passage are significant.
 - 1. Signs/wonders that describe Jesus describe the church.
 - 1. Peter's shadow reminds us of Jesus' miracles.
 - 2. This passage is the start to the fulfillment of 1:8, to be witnesses beyond Jerusalem.
 - 2. We are not to be isolated from the world, but we are called to be in it but not of it.
 - 1. 4 main ways of interacting with the world: 1. Isolation 2. Assimilation 3. Domination 4. Salt and Light Faithfulness
 - 3. We are to live righteous enough for the world to hold us in high esteem, but holy enough to be distinct from the world.
 - 4. The signs and wonders today are found in miracles but also works of mercy: felt needs that are met so the seeds of faith may be planted.
 - 1. Clothing the naked, providing for the poor, feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, visiting the imprisoned
 - 5. Deed is always accompanied by Word for the sake of the advancement of the gospel.
 - 6. Miracles are found in the extraordinary but also found in the ordinary of everyday disciplines, acts of kindness and mercy, and sharing one's faith.

V. The Savior

- A. Signs and wonders were accomplished by Christ to accompany His gospel message: He is the Christ, and we are saved by His person and work.
- B. His death on the cross and resurrection is the ultimate sign and wonder. Sign that we are saved and our sins are forgiven. Wonder at His power, majesty, and deity. Wonder at His love and grace for us.
- C. It is the Savior who healed us spiritually and physically- we were the ones naked, poor, hungry, thirsty, imprisoned. But we are healed because He became naked, poor, hungry, thirsty, imprisoned for us, so that we may be clothed, rich, satisfied, and set free.
- D. Because Christ has done this for us, now we can embody His work and perform signs and wonders of mercy and proclamation for Him.