

LESSON 20 - PETER DIRECTS TRAFFIC ON KINGDOM HIGHWAY

Acts 1 - 7

THEME: *To teach the responsibility of believers to witness for Christ.*

What a joyful day it must have been when the disciples received the news that Jesus was alive. He showed Himself alive to over 500 people besides His apostles, and spoke to them of the Kingdom of God. 1 Corinthians 15:5-6. When the disciples gathered together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?" He replied: "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father has put in His own power. But you will receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and you will be witnesses to Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the farthest part of the earth." Acts 1:6-8.

God was giving Israel an opportunity to receive their risen Lord, a basis for setting up the KINGDOM to which KINGDOM HIGHWAY leads, because that was the *only way* the promised blessings of God could come upon the whole world. Why was God being so gracious and giving Israel another chance to repent after they had crucified His Son? It was because:

1. Christ prayed on the Cross: "Father, forgive them." Luke 23:34.
2. God had promised Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and others that through their seed, Christ, and through the nation of Israel, all the world was to be blessed.
3. God wanted to give a final test to Israel to prove their hearts. They had turned from God in the past when they had chosen a king and idols; they had crucified the Son of God; and now God wanted to see what they would do when the Holy Spirit was sent.

On the Day of Pentecost, 50 days after the Crucifixion, 120 believers gathered in an upper room to pray. The risen Christ had said: "Stay at Jerusalem until..." Luke 24:49. Suddenly a sound came from Heaven. Acts 2:1-14. Peter then stood up and spoke to all the Jews in Jerusalem--how excited he must have been--"This is that which was promised!" We compare Acts 2:15-21 with Joel 2:28-32. Christ had already said that Peter was to be the one to use the keys of the KINGDOM. On Pentecost about 3000 Jews came in at Peter's invitation, and Israel was receiving another chance to repent and be baptised for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38.

The disciples and all those who believed, received the promised power.

They began to do mighty miracles in the Name of the risen Christ.

Acts 3:1-11.

Now would seem to be the best time for the King to return. Acts 3:19-21. But not yet! How did the rulers, the ones who crucified Christ, receive the witness of the Holy Spirit through the disciples? They still had not prepared KINGDOM HIGHWAY to be ready for the King. The very first miracle caused them to begin to persecute the disciples. The Priests, the Captain of the Temple, the Sadducees, all laid hands on the believers to kill them. Acts 4:1-3, Acts 5:18.

Finally, they stoned faithful Stephen as he prayed. Acts 7. Self-righteous Saul stood by as the killers laid their clothes at his feet. The prayer of Stephen speaks of forgiving them for this deed.

What will God do now, since these people are rejecting the risen Lord and resisting His Holy Spirit? Jesus had predicted His rejection by Israel. Matthew 21:42-46. He had said that a word spoken against Him would be forgiven. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven. Matthew 12:31. Again unbelief is going to block traffic on KINGDOM HIGHWAY, even as happened back at Kadesh-Barnea in the wilderness. Unbelief always brings sorrow and trouble, but the disciples saw the risen Christ, and because they saw Him, they believed, becoming powerful witnesses.

Today we believers who live at GRACE AIRPORT have not seen with our eyes the risen Christ, but we have the record of His death and resurrection in the Bible. God expects us to believe His Word and to become witnesses of what is in the Word.

Peter became a good traffic policeman. He pointed the Jews to Christ as the *only way of salvation*. What kind of traffic policeman are you? God wants each of us to direct people to get aboard SALVATION LINER. Peter preached: "Neither is there salvation in any other." Acts 4:12.

MEMORY VERSE: "There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

LESSON 20 - WORK SHEET

Look up the Scripture references and you will find the answers to the following WHAT questions.

1. WHAT did the disciples ask the Lord Jesus about the KINGDOM when He appeared to them after His resurrection? Acts 1:6. _____

2. WHAT did the Lord Jesus answer? Acts 1:7 _____

3. WHAT did the Lord Jesus tell the disciples they would receive when the Holy Spirit came upon them? Acts 1:8 _____
4. WHAT were the disciples to become? Acts 1:8 _____

5. WHAT did Peter tell the Israelites to do on the Day of Pentecost? Acts 2:38 _____
6. WHAT was the reason God gave the Israelites another opportunity to repent, after they had crucified Christ? Luke 23:34 _____

7. WHAT was the promise made to Peter which caused him to be called the Keeper of the gates of the KINGDOM? Matthew 16:19. _____

8. WHAT promise is made to us which should make us desire to labor for our Lord even as Peter did? 1 Corinthians 3:8. _____

9. WHAT is the message which we under GRACE are to give out as we direct travel in GRACE AIRPORT, and invite people to get aboard SALVATION LINER? Romans 10:9-10. _____

10. Write Acts 4:12 from memory. _____

NAME _____ # _____

ADDRESS _____

SCORE _____