

Friday Men in Christ – September 13, 2024

^{RSV} Acts 1:4-5 *While staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 1:8 *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses **in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.***

1. Luke's account is never credited to anyone except the doctor who becomes a disciple of Paul. (Col. 4:4; II Tim 4:10-11)
2. Acts 1-5 – a small group of extreme Jews make a decisive commitment to the truths of Jesus the crucified as a resurrected Messiah and Lord of creation.
 - a. By chapters 15-28 this teaching will spread across the eastern empire in Greek speaking peoples.
 - b. The Good News moves from the laboring peoples to the elite people of leadership.

Acts 6:1-8 *Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. ' But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, **and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.***

- c. By Acts 5:16 the cities of the Roman province of Judah are covered.
 - d. By verse 8:15 the cities of Samaria have "Followers of the Way."
 - e. As "the priest" adopt the truth of Jesus the entire Temple system is under attack and things can no longer be as they once had been.
 - i. This brings us to Saul of Tarsus.
 - ii. Out of the schools of the **Rabbinics** arises a reaction – **sacred violence.**
3. Can a condemned – forsaken – blasphemous – man be the Lord of the Covenant?
4. Is God in Jesus? Did God affirm him? Is Jesus risen?
 - a. What does this do to the authority of The Seventy?
 - b. Does our High Priest have "blood on his hands?"
 - c. Have we misread the scriptures – the Torah – the mind of God
 - d. Is our "religion" which is wholly dedicated to the One True Living God – falsely and wrongly conceived? Leadership in Israel must submit or resist!!!
5. The scriptures must be "redefined" – here comes the "new scriptures".