

One Heart & Soul

- Opening Announcements
- Opening Prayer

Q: As you've read the book of Acts so far, what's one thing that sticks out to you?

Q: Are you surprised at the resistance to this move of God?

Q: How do we see that same dynamic happening today?

Transition:

Today we continue to see how the healing of the lame man, impacts thousands! But first, remember that the religious leaders “arrest” Peter and John and question them and charge them NOT to talk about Jesus anymore! Peter makes his confession: “we must speak of what we've seen and heard” (v.20). We pick up the account after they are released!

The Setup:

READ: Acts 4:23-31 “When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them. **24** And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, **25** who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, “ ‘Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? **26** The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed’— **27** for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, **28** to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. **29** And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, **30** while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” **31** And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”

Q: According to verse 24, what happened when “they heard” what had happened? What's interesting about their response? (Btw, they quote Psalm 2:1-2)

Q: According to verses 29-30, what is the prayer?

Q: AND what is the correlation between “healing, signs and wonders” and proclaiming the message of Jesus?

Q: According to verse 31, what happened when they prayed this? What does it mean that the "place was shaken"?

Q: AND, what's the relationship between being "filled with the Holy Spirit" and "speak(ing) the word of God with boldness"?

READ: Acts 4:32-37 "Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. **33** And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold **35** and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. **36** Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, **37** sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet."

Q: What is the response to this move of the Holy Spirit on the people?

Q: Why did they do this? Like, what does this teach us about how they viewed their possessions vs the mission of Jesus?

Q: How does this radical generosity ALSO confirm the power of the Gospel to others?

Q: Joseph is specifically mentioned here as having sold some property for the mission. Why do you think this is? (Hint...this sets up the story for tomorrow!).

Q: Did anyone or anything in this passage indicate that God was "requiring" this, or demanding this or commanding this kind of generosity?

Q: Why did they do it?

READ: 2 Corinthians 9:7 "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."

Q: According to this passage, what's the attitude in which we give? And what's the result?