

The Upper Room. Pt 2.
Acts 1:15-26.
Sunday morning, June 28, 2009.

I. Peter's address to the 120 disciples. Vs. 15-20

- A. Many of the 500 eyewitnesses of the resurrection remained in Galilee.
- B. We see also that not only prayer, but also God's word played an important role in the meetings of these disciples in the upper room. Their thoughts and prayers were being formed and informed and reformed by the word of God.
- C. With the inward illumining work of the Holy Spirit they see Christ in the OT Scriptures. The Lord Jesus had said that the OT Scriptures testified of Him. John 5:39. The Lord Himself had opened the Scriptures to some of them and shown them how the OT had to be fulfilled in Himself. Luke 24:25-27,32.
- D. By the illumining work of the Holy Spirit Peter sees that the sufferings Judas brought to the Lord Jesus, were prophetically foreshadowed in the life of David, as he was made to suffer at the hand of one of his most trusted advisors, Ahithophel.
- E. 2 Samuel 15,16,and 17 tell of Absalom's rebellion and Ahithophel' role in it.
 - 1. He was one of David's most trusted advisors. "The advise of Ahithophel... was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God... both with David and with Absalom." 2 Samuel 16:23.
 - 2. When Absalom rebelled against David by stealing the hearts of the people, in an attempt to steal the throne, Ahithophel joined Absalom. 2 Samuel 15:12.
 - 3. Ahithophel advises Absalom to take David's Harem as his own; an act equivalent to claiming the throne. 2 Samuel 16:20-22.
 - 4. When Absalom chooses not to heed Ahithophel's advise of pursuing and killing David, but chooses the advise of another advisor instead, Ahithophel senses that Absalom's rebellion is doomed, and he goes home and hangs himself. 2 Samuel 17:1,7,23.
- F. Peter draws these parallels:
 - 1. Ahithophel became a guide to rebellious Absalom, and Judas a guide to the rebellious leaders of Israel who arrested Jesus. Acts 1:16.
 - 2. Ahithophel was part of David's inner circle and took part in the ministry of David's kingdom affairs; Judas "was numbered with us and obtained part in this ministry." Acts 1:17.
 - 3. When Ahithophel saw that Absalom's rebellion was doomed, and therefore he was doomed, he went and hanged himself. When Judas saw that he was condemned for betraying innocent blood, he too hanged himself. Matt. 27:5.
- G. Peter quotes the Psalms.
 - 1. Psalm 69:25 and 109:8.
 - 2. Both are Psalms of David.
 - 3. David's trials with Absalom and Ahithophel are reflected in these Psalms.

II. Peter applies the Scriptures. Vs. 21-26

- A. Guided by the words "Let another take his office," from Psalm 109:8, Peter concludes that, in obedience to God's word, another apostle has to be chosen.

Someone who has been an eyewitness of the Lord's ministry from the days of John the Baptist until the ascension.

- B. The others concur and they propose two names, Justus and Matthias. Then they pray, cast lots in OT fashion, and number Matthias among the apostles.
- C. This poses a problem for Acc. to Rev. 21:14 New Jerusalem has twelve foundations, which are the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Since the Apostle Paul was added later we would have thirteen with Matthias. Did the eleven do something wrong? Matthias is never heard of again. Were Peter's exposition and application faulty?

III. Toward an understanding of Peter and Ourselves.

- A. The Holy spirit dwells in believers and enlightens them in the truth of scripture, especially as it centers on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. In the heart of a believer there is a joining together of a human and a divine impulse. In the work of regeneration we become the counterpart of the Lord Jesus Christ. The helper suitable to Him in His two natures; the godhead joined inseparately to the manhood.
- C. All our works as Christians; all the work of the Christian Church, is marked by these two impulses, the human and the divine. The human impulse is as yet beset by weakness, ignorance, and fallenness.

This is why our Confession states that all churches (and Christians) are more or less pure, and all are subject to both mixture and error. WCF.Ch. 25:4,5.

- D. Here at the beginning of the new dispensation we are given the governing principle that would remain true as long as this world remains. There are always the two sides in everything the church and the Christian do in uprightness; the human and the divine; the perfect and the imperfect.
- E. Peter is enlightened by the Holy Spirit. He has the right insight and interpretation. He even has the right application, but not the right timing. But the Lord graciously overrules our weakness and our humanity and He turns it for our good and for His glory. "He was numbered with the eleven apostles."
 - 1. Abraham and Sarah had the divine vision of the promised seed burning in their hearts; sustained by God's Spirit. But in their humanity they turn to Hagar for the fulfillment.
 - 2. Joseph knew by the Holy spirit that he would rule over his father and brothers. And in his youthful enthusiasm and humanity he tells his father and brothers pre-maturely.
 - 3. Moses understood by the Holy Spirit that he was to deliver Israel out of Egypt. In his humanity he goes over to them and begins the work to no avail.
 - 4. David understood by the Holy spirit that the time had come to build the temple of God. In his humanity he begins the work, but the Lord allows him to go no further than the preparations.
 - 5. By the Holy spirit James and John understand that Jesus is the Messiah, and in their humanity they ask to sit on His right and left hand in His kingdom.