

Daring To Join Ourselves To The Lord.

Acts 5:12-16.

Sunday morning, October 25, 2009.

I. Two kinds of people.

- A. We must see this passage against the backdrop of what happened to Ananias and Sapphira.
- B. People began to see that it was serious business to join themselves to the Lord.

Application:

That we would see that it is still a most serious thing to join ourselves to the Lord. It should not be done flippantly, but soberly and in the fear of God.

At the same time it is a glorious thing for a sinner to come home to the family of God and to be welcomed into the family of God.

It is also a most necessary thing, for without joining ourselves to the Lord we have no future; only a fearful looking forward to eternal judgment, for sinners will not be tolerated in the Lord's kingdom forever. The Lord Jesus will come and clean His threshing floor thoroughly.

- C. Notwithstanding the sobering and purifying effect that the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira had on the minds and motives of the people, multitudes of both men and women were added to the church. Vs. 11.
- D. Two kinds of people are embedded in our passage:
 1. That group of which it is said that they all were gathered with one accord in Solomon's Porch.
 - There is some confusion among commentators as to who were included in this group. Was it the church comprised of those who had believed and were baptized, or was the group broader than that?
 - If it was the entire church, the outer court of the temple complex, surrounded by Solomon's porch, was the only place in Jerusalem large enough to house them. As such it makes sense that they gathered there.
 - From the context it appears that the group was broader than the church alone. The temple was a public place; Solomon's Porch had no walls, only a roof. As such by passers and other outsiders could freely mingle in, and from the context it appears that they did so in large numbers. "Believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women." Vs. 11.
 - Consequently the "one accord" spoken of here is broader than the union believers share with the Lord Jesus Christ and one another. It is the desire shared by all to hear and understand the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Those of whom it is said that "the people esteemed them highly" must then be regarded as the large numbers of by passers and outsiders that joined in with the company of believers to hear the message of salvation preached.
 2. The second group of people are those "who did not dare to join them."
 - After the death of Ananias and Sapphira people knew that joining the church was serious business. As such this event had a purifying influence on the church. People were not going to join just to try something new.

- They understood that joining the church was about a new ultimate authority in their lives; the risen and reigning lord Jesus Christ. And that it was about a new agenda for their lives; following and serving the Lord Jesus Christ.
- They were not ready to give over the reigns to the Lord Jesus Christ; they wished to remain masters of their own destiny, and as such they stood clear of the group of disciples.

II. What about you?

- A. Where do you see yourself in these two groups of people?
1. Outwardly you are here among the people of God, but inwardly do you desire to come under the Lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ? Do you desire to become a child in His family; a sheep in His flock. Are you ready to embrace his agenda for your life, without knowing where that will lead; only that it involves good and gracious ends?
 2. Inwardly, must you have the final say; must you stay in control of your own life and be the master of your own destiny? If so, inwardly you are steering clear of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. But I would ask you, are you an able master; are you able and wise enough to bring your life to a good and gracious end? Are you able and wise enough to guide your ship in a safe harbor at the end of your life's journey?
 3. Christ has come into the world that He might board our vessels, and take over the controls, giving new purpose and meaning to our journey, and to guide us safely into the harbor on the shores of a new heaven and earth.
 4. You say that is serious business, and it is, but not doing so is serious business too. So who will you put your trust in, yourself or the Lord Jesus Christ? How have you done guiding your own life thus far?
- B. Perhaps you see yourself somewhere in between. Somehow deep inside you wish that you were like the people of God, but at the same time you are not ready to surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.
1. Our text holds out hope to you.
Believers in the Lord brought out the sick folks; they even came from the surrounding cities, so that the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on them, and our text says they were all healed.
 2. The Lord healed the bodies of men in those days to authenticate the message of the gospel. Having authenticated the message in the first century, He no longer does so ordinarily speaking in our days. But He still heals men's souls by having the shadow of the cross of Christ fall on them; and the shadow of the risen and reigning Christ; the shadow of His throne of grace, and the shadow of His judgment throne in the preaching of His word..
 3. Look to Christ, and put yourself in the path of his preached word, and ask

Him

that the shadow of His passing might fall on your soul, so you will find that your soul will be healed, and so that you would be enabled to sincerely embrace the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior. Without Him you have no hope.