

## LESSON 3

# CHRIST'S PARTING COMMAND AND PENTECOST

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### REVIEW QUESTIONS:

1. What is the Church? (L. 1)
2. Did the Christian church begin when Jesus came? (L. 1,2)
3. What great event marked the beginning of the New Testament Church? (L. 2)
4. Why was the Spirit poured on the Church? (L. 2)

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### MEMORY QUESTIONS:

7. What did Christ command His Church before He ascended?

**In Matthew 28: 19,20 we read, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."**

8. What has Pentecost to do with Christ's command?

**At Pentecost, Christ sent the Church His Spirit to make them able to obey His command. (Matt. 10:20, John 14:26)**

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### READ CAREFULLY:

Matthew 10:16-42; John 16; Acts 2

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## LESSON DISCUSSION:

Just before Christ ascended to heaven, He had another talk with His disciples. You will have noticed from Acts 1 that the disciples asked Jesus if He was now going to restore the kingdom to Israel. They evidently still did not understand Christ's work correctly. They had the Word, but did not understand the Word. They had the Old Testament and all the teachings of Jesus, but they were still looking for an earthly kingdom for the Jews.

### *THE COMMAND*

It is to these that Christ says, "Go therefore, into all the world and make disciples." You would think that these people could not do that. They are not ready. They will bring the wrong message. They will stir up the people against the Romans who are ruling over them. But when the day of Pentecost came, it was altogether different. They were all in Jerusalem in an upper room waiting for the promise that Christ had made to them. And when the Spirit came, wonderful things happened. These people began to teach. They began to make disciples.

We notice here, that for the beginning of the Church, God used special means as well as the usual means. He caused people to speak in other languages and also caused those listening to understand in their own language. Today, if we want someone to understand in his own language, we must learn that language or use an interpreter. But on that day they needed no interpreter. For you know that there were many people gathered at Jerusalem from all over the world. They had come for the feast of Pentecost.

### *THE MESSAGE*

Notice the message they now bring. It is not about the kingdom of Israel the way they understood it before. It is about the promise that God had made to Abraham—the promise of life, of salvation. Peter said to them, "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:39)

### *COURAGE*

Now we see the Word truly being preached. And Peter, who had run away when the Jews crucified Christ; Peter, who had denied his Lord when the people asked him if he was one of the disciples, now says to these same people that they had with wicked hands crucified the Lord. But also that God had raised Him from the dead.

### *REPENT!*

You will notice that Peter does not go easy with these people. He does not try to win them by saying nice things to them. Now Peter says to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." He went on to say, "Be saved from this perverse generation." (Acts 2:38,40) It is surely a different Peter. Surely these are different apostles and disciples. No they are the same ones. But now the Holy Spirit was in them.

### *SALVATION*

Notice that not only does the Word appear with power, but the sacrament also. All these three thousand that were saved were baptized. "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized." (Acts 2:41) Most likely the Lord's Supper also appears here, for it says, "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers."

Another thing that God used here for the beginning of the Church was many signs and wonders. See verse 43 of Acts 2. And He used the witness of the life of the people as they were "praising God and having favor with all the people." (Acts 2:47)

How much this little group that was hiding itself for fear of the Jews had been changed. For the Spirit of promise, the Holy Spirit, had come upon them and given them power. He had given them the right understanding. He had given them words to speak.

### **POINTS TO REMEMBER:**

- ◆ 1. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles an understanding of how the Old Testament spoke of Christ and His work.
- ◆ 2. The Holy Spirit gave the apostles the courage to apply the Word of God from the Old Testament and the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, to the people.
- ◆ 3. When the Word is truly preached as Peter did, it will not make people feel good, but will make them feel terrible because of their sins.
- ◆ 4. God used the signs and wonders at Pentecost and later, to support the Word.

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LESSON:**

1. What will happen to those who don't confess Christ, but deny Him instead? (Matthew 16)
2. Why did Christ say it was good for the church that He went away? (John 16)
3. What message would the Holy Spirit bring the world? (John 16)
4. Why was everyone amazed when the apostles started preaching at Pentecost?
5. Where and when did all the different languages in the world come from anyway? Why?
6. Whom did Peter say caused Christ to be crucified?

7. How do we know that when Jesus ascended, the disciples still didn't understand the Old Testament?
  
8. Can you show how Peter was changed at Pentecost from what he was before?
  
9. What promise was preached at Pentecost? Show that this was not a new promise.
  
10. How does Peter's sermon show that the gospel doesn't make people feel good right away?
  
11. What three things does the last part of your lesson say the Holy Spirit had given the Church?

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**WRITTEN WORK: (SECOND YEAR)**

1. Whom does Christ tell His disciples to fear in the part of Matthew you have read?
  
2. How many were added to the Church and what did they receive?
  
3. How were people added to the Church? (Acts 2:47)