
WAKE UP THE MIGHTY MEN

05/27/2023: New Brighton

Gem of Light – We must want to do and want to be just what God would have us to be. And the lesson we have to learn daily is to be meek and lowly of heart. Then can we raise the standard higher and still higher. My children, every day hide in the cleft of the Rock where you may not be seen but where you can see, and where you can hear the proclamation of God’s character. This is worth everything to us. [**Letter 141, 1986, E.G.W.**]

Introduction: Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. From 1868 to 1970 it was on May 30th, it is now observed on the last Monday of May. This resulted from the **620,000** American fatalities from the Civil War. People would decorate the graves of the fallen soldiers to honor their sacrifice. **Today we honor our own** who have sacrificed all so we may live in comfort and peace. These faithful soldiers have heard the call to defend our great country. Unfortunately, some even face ridicule for their service.

1. **What was God’s call when Israel was facing the enemy?** – Joel 3:9-11
God was calling all mighty men to stand, take up arms, and prepare for war against the enemy. These mighty men were called to transform their tools of trade into weapons of war.
**Notice the call to awake. Were some asleep?*
2. **What great weapon were the Jesus’ disciples to utilize?** Acts 1:4-5
While the disciples were to enter a spiritual war, they were to wait for a great weapon, a great promise (John 14:12-18).
3. **What role were these “soldiers of the Lord” to fill?**
Acts 1:8
The disciples would receive great power. They would learn to lean on God as they wait and pray for ten Days.
They would **pray for ten days, preach for ten minutes, and convert 3 thousand. We want to pray for ten minutes, preach for ten days, and the results are three baptisms.**
These believers were together in one accord in prayer (**Acts 1:14**)
4. **What did patience and prayer result in?** – Acts 2:1-4
The Holy Spirit is poured out on God’s people. God provides a means to reach “unreachable” people. The great barrier of language has been removed (**Acts 1:5-13**).
5. **What was God preparing the disciples for?**
Acts 1:14-36
The disciples launch into a series of public meetings beginning with the demonstration of tongues and continuing with Peter’s sermon and on.
**Peter’s sermon is not homiletically perfect; he doesn’t even end with an appeal. However, God uses this imperfect vessel, and the audience is “cut to the heart” and asked for the next step (vs 37). Peter then offers an appeal (vs 38).*

*Some say evangelism doesn't work, the people don't care etc... What more difficult mission field was there than Jerusalem? Here three thousand people were baptized.

6. **What fueled the continued success of the work?**

Acts 2:46-47

They continued daily in one accord in the temple and in the home and daily people were being saved.

7. **How does this evangelistic series continue?**

Acts 3:11

The next venue for a sermon is Solomon's porch. Peter offers the best thing he has, not money, but healing.

8. **Will the enemy take this lying down?** – Acts 4:8, 12

In Peter's series of evangelism, though there was an attempt to disturb his work (**vs 1-7**), Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. Peter is diligent to deliver the gospel message (**vs 12**).

9. **What did they see in Peter?** – Acts 4:13

They saw boldness in Peter. Jesus very likely met with the very same people just sixty days before. Peter was there too, hiding. Now, Peter is boldly proclaiming Jesus as Savior.

Though uneducated and untrained they marveled. Jesus had been trained first by Jesus for three and a half years. Now he had the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter was facing the doctors and highly educated and rivaled their intellect regarding salvation.

10. **As they worked for the Lord their faith grew as well as the church.** - Luke 10:38-42

Peter could not help but to speak of the greatness of Jesus (**vs 18, 20**). Again, they continue in one accord (**vs 24**).

The result of continuing in prayer and in one accord is a sequel to Pentecost (**vs 31**). How would you like to pray until the building shakes? The disciples experience great grace from God (**vs 33**).

Conclusion:

-As this great series continues at Solomon's Porch many signs and wonders were done (**Acts 5:12**).

-Not only women, but also men were coming to the truth (**Acts 5:14**).

-While the result of coming together in one accord in the name of Jesus is being filled with the Holy Spirit, the enemies are being filled with indignation (**Acts 5:17**).

-Even imprisonment cannot stop the gospel from going out (**vs 20**).

-They receive rebuke for teaching doctrine (a belief) (**vs 28**), doctrine is Jesus, Jesus is doctrine.

-They departed the council rejoicing that they had been counted worthy to suffer for Jesus (**vs 41**).

-The disciples regularly continued preaching Jesus in church and in homes (**vs. 42**).