**Unstoppable - wk 33 – Stranger Things**

**Acts is Jesus: The Sequel. Luke Vol 2 – The “what now?”**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

**25 yrs since Jesus rose from the Dead. Paul just started his 3rd mission trip after a brief visit at him home church.**

**(map) Acts 18:23 After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.**

**Paul leaves for Galatia, revisiting the churches. He left Aquilla and Priscilla in Ephesus to sow & water - finally makes it there.**

**Acts 19:1 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples.**

**Apollos is a teacher who left Ephesus before Paul showed up.**

**1 Cor 3:6 - Paul says Apollos “watered the church”. Paul refers to Apollos as a friend and effective teacher 1 Cor, Titus)**

**Paul encounters similar issue P&A dealt with in ch 18.**

**Let’s make sense of it - Acts 19:1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3 So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. 4 Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.”**

**(Following teaching) 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (Following baptism) 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. 7 There were about twelve men in all. (12 disciples of John became disciples of Jesus)**

**This is the last detailed account of conversions in Acts. And the last time tongues are mentions in Acts.**

**This encounter describes three unique events.**

**Let’s break down three things occurred:**

**1. He taught them the full gospel of Jesus.**

**What they believed was incomplete. They followed the baptism of John**

**John’s baptism points to preparing for the Messiah - A washing to prepare for his arrival. Works - cleanse yourself, he’s coming.**

**Jesus Baptism points to a present salvation. It declares the death, burial, and resurrection of the Christ who has come.**

**\*\* Paul asked them 2 questions – “Did you received the Holy Spirit when you believed?” No, who’s that? Which prompted the 2nd Q.**

**“Then, how were you baptized?” Because we Baptize with Matt 28:19.**

**Two diff opinions of this passage asking - “Were they already saved?”**

**\*\* YES – “Did you receive from the HS when you believed?”**

**Some would say they were already believers – But Paul was wanting to impart spiritual gifts to them. This is reading into the story and does not answer why they were re-baptized.**

**\*\* NO – “Did you receive the HS when you believed?” does not necessarily mean they were born again or disciples of Jesus.**

**The fact that they were re-baptized suggests that they were not.**

**\*\* Had they had not been taught the fullness of Christs work of the cross and resurrection - they would have known Jesus Baptism.**

**\*\* And a lack of the HS means they did not know of Christ nature as God – Trinitarian baptism (FS&HS) is a declaration of the that.**

**\*\* And with (FS&HS) Christian baptism - they would have known of the HS had they been born again. Also, HS is given at salvation.**

**They were not true disciple of Jesus, only of John. Not born-again. They were then given the true gospel of JC and baptized.**

**2. He re-baptized them**

**Means they believed the gospel and became followers of Jesus. They were then baptized in the authority of the Lord Jesus – in the name of FS&HS. Declaring Christ lordship.**

**3. He placed hands on them and they spoke in other languages and prophesied**

**Does not say they were seeking tongues or - Paul was trying to give them tongues. He’s simply praying for them after baptism.**

**\*\* What was happening here? What are tongues? Are all supposed to? We will come back to this in a minute.**

**Paul’s Ministry in Ephesus (later) Acts 19:8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. (Based on other descriptions, Paul used OT texts to show Jesus is Christ)**

**9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. (Before known as Christians, known as followers of the Way)**

**So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall (school) of Tyrannus. (Pic - Stopped going to the synagogue, took it to the public every day) 10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord. (Paul’s letters mentions those who traveled around.)**

**Daily - hundreds of hours for 2 yrs – He trained, equipped and sent out. No wonder the work in Ephesus was so effective.**

**People came from all over. Ephesus become an epicenter to the gospel. We later find out that some from surrounding areas came and then planted church in their areas – ie. Colossae.**

**Stranger Things**

**During this time strange things were happening - Acts 19:11 God did extraordinary (unusual) miracles through Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs (head sweat bands) and aprons (work clothes) that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured, and the evil spirits left them.**

**Luke is recording what was considered unique and not normal. Only time something like this is mentioned in the NT.**

**\*\* God did them – through Paul. It was not Paul it was God.**

**This prompted some Jewish leader to try the name of Jesus.**

**And it went very bad for them – Next week.**

**A lot is happening in Ephesus - What we can learn from this so far?**

**1. Salvation is found only in the name of Jesus.**

**Works is not salvation – Baptism is not salvation.**

**Not in the name of John the Baptist, pastor, teacher, prophet, motivational speaker, or author - not Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, Muhammad, Allah, Buddha, Brahma, Krishna, or any other**

**Acts 4:12 – And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

**Eph 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.**

**Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. (Faith in Jesus) And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

**It’s not church attendance, membership, a baptism, or reading spiritual books, being a good person - It is Jesus by grace.**

**2. Rebaptism is an acceptable expression of your faith**

**The great commission is the command to preach that gospel of Jesus and to Baptize in the name of FS&HS (Ma 28) in the authority of Jesus = that’s gospel authority.**

**Baptism is an identification with the life, death, resurrection of Jesus!**

**(Paul’s message - Rom 6:3, Col 2:12, 1 Cot 12:13, Gal 3:27) It is not optional.**

**How do I know if my baptism was legit?**

* **If you were baptized without a true understanding of Jesus.**
* **If it was not a biblical baptism model – immersion.**
* **If it was not in the proper authority – FS&HS – in Jesus authority.**
* **If it was something you did just because you were pressured to.**

**Going thru the motions, friends did it, family member pressured you. Maybe you were not truly saved.**

* **If – you have new professed faith in Christ after years running.**

**I think of infant baptism and rebaptizing with a full knowledge of faith. Sprinkling or pouring.**

**Technically these are not re-baptism, this is your first baptism unto Christ. If the other were true baptisms, you would not need to do it again. But it the mode, purpose, definition, and name – matter.**

**3. Tongues are not as common as some think**

**What are tongues? Acts 2 – gives us the only description of what it is.**

**Acts 2:11 - …we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”**

**“Tongues” is praising God in an unlearned but known language (known dialect) as a sign that the Gospel was for all nations.**

**Never used for an evangelistic tool. It’s just not there.**

**Acts 2:14 - Peter then stood up and gave the gospel in an intelligible language.**

**(FYI - for many this is considered the gift of prophetic words from God)**

**1 Cor 14:21-22 - tells us it is a sign to unbelieving Jews that the Messiah for all nations (fulfilling Isaiah 28:11-12).**

**Was never to make you feel close to God, that’s the purpose of the Blood of JC. Was never a prayer language for you, but a sign to unbelieving Jews. Biblical tongues point to & praises Jesus!**

**3 Times it shows up in Acts - each time it’s a new people group**

**In the 30 years Acts covers – only mentioned three times.**

**Acts 2 - Jewish people - praise in other known languages (120 people)**

**Praising God in over a dozen languages, declaring the wonders of God**

**Acts 10 - Roman Gentiles - confirmed God’s message to them (house)**

**Shocked Peter understood them, possibly speaking Hebrew.**

**Acts 19 – Greek Gentiles – confirmed God’s message to them (12 men)**

**In this passage we just read.**

**\*\* The gift of tongues according to the Bible, is a gift which enabled its recipients to praise God in known languages, at certain times determined by the Holy Spirit, to authenticate the message of Jesus in the presence of Jewish unbelievers.**

**\*\* It was not universally practiced in the early church.**

**1 Cor 12:31, 14:1,12,39 – not all speak in tongues, and it is something we are not to pursue or desire. Don’t worry about it if you don’t.**

**\* Did Apollos get re-baptized? Possibly. Most likely.**

**\* Did Apollos speak in tongues? Jewish, was already confirmed.**

**4. Miracles are not as common as some think**

**Acts 19:11 God did extraordinary (unusual - unordinary) miracles through Paul,**

**The handkerchief was rare and unusual – that is why it’s in there. Charlatans who use this at a money-making scheme.**

**Miracles were not commonplace, they did not happen often, most (not all) were at the hands of the apostles. Of the 29 recorded miracles in acts – all but 1 are described as outside of the local church gathering.**

**Some thoughts on Miracles**

**\*\* Know this - We can’t control the HS and how God will work. It is at His will, not our demands (1 Cor 12:11).**

**Pray for a miracle but be willing to accept God’s will.**

**\*\* Our greatest need is not physical healing and financial stability – it’s forgiveness of sin.**

**Jesus w/ paralytic – your sins are forgiven (Mark 2)**

**\*\* The purpose of a miracle is not to make you feel better, but to authenticate the authority of the Gospel.**

**Its purpose is to communicate the authority of God’s message – OT prophets, Jesus, the Apostles.**

**\*\* The purpose of a miracle is not to make life better, but to point to the hope of the kingdom of God.**

**Everyone who is healed – was healed – will still die. That momentary healing was a glimpse of a greater full healing – in the Kingdom of God.**

**So we will - Pray for a miracle - but we must be willing to accept God’s will.**

**Maybe like those 12 men – you know some things about Jesus.**

**But you have never confessed his Lordship – submitted to Jesus.**

**There is no other name – by which you can be saved.**

**No other name that can heal your heart and soul.**

**Jesus.**