

## Episode #1121 Acts Section 1-The Great Unity

I. I believe that the book of Acts, after the introduction in chapter 1, separates into four great sections: The Great Unity, the Great Scattering, Paul's Ministry, and Paul's Imprisonment and Trials. Today, we will consider this first section, and what the Great Unity was all about.

### II. Acts Part 1: The Great Unity.

A. The Lord Jesus prayed for unity to His Father in John 17:20-23. He prayed not just for His disciples, but for those who would believe on Him through their word. This unity was established in the Acts period.

#### B. The Unity Established.

1. Acts 2:41-42. The 3,120 continue steadfastly in four things.
2. Acts 2:43-47. The believers share all things and mingle together.

#### C. The Unity Continued.

1. Acts 4:4. The number is now up to five thousand.
2. Acts 4:32. The larger number continues to be unified.
  - a. Their hearts beat as one.
  - b. They share everything.
3. Acts 4:33-35. None of them are in need.
  - a. Those who own investments now sell them off to share.
  - b. The apostles are in charge, so everyone receives as he has need.

#### D. The Unity Threatened.

1. First it is threatened from without.
  - a. The Sanhedrin arrest Peter and John. Acts 4:1-3.
  - b. They threaten them if they continue to speak. Acts 4:13-22.
  - c. The Lord answers their prayer for boldness. Acts 4:23-31.
2. Secondly it is threatened from within.
  - a. Acts 5:1-2. Ananias and Sapphira's hearts are beating out of rhythm.
  - b. Acts 5:3-11. The Holy Spirit removes them from the unity.
  - c. Acts 5:12-13. The unity continues in purity.
3. Thirdly it is threatened again from without.
  - a. Acts 5:17-18. The Sadducees arrest all the apostles.
  - b. Acts 5:19-26. The Lord turns the situation back on them.
  - c. Acts 5:40-42. They have to let them go, and the unity continues.
4. Fourthly it is threatened from within.
  - a. Acts 6:1-2. The Hellenists start to murmur.
  - b. Acts 6:3-6. The apostles give the solution.
  - c. Acts 6:7. The unity continues and grows.

#### E. The Unity Disbanded.

1. Acts 6:8-15. Stephen is arrested.
2. Acts 7:57-60. Stephen is stoned.
3. Acts 8:1-4. The unity is scattered from Jerusalem. Separated by distance, they can no longer be one.
4. John 17:20. The unity was only to be those who believed through the disciples' word. Second generation believers are not included.

III. Conclusion: The Lord's prayer came about exactly as He prayed it. Both His disciples and those who believed through them were unified. Once it spread out from there, the unity ceased.

We have no such unity today. That is not how God is working, or what He is seeking to accomplish. Instead, He is showing forth His grace.