

Bible/College Class Notes – Studies in the Book of Acts – Lesson 113

Early Reactions to the Apostles' Message

This week – The crowds first cried Hosanna, then Crucify Him, and then some repented.

“... God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ”
Acts 2v36.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Matthew 21v1-11 (Hosanna to the Son of David!)	
Monday	Mark 15v1-15 (Crucify Him! Crucify Him!)	
Tuesday	Matthew 27v29-44 (Come down off the cross!)	
Wednesday	Acts 1v1-14 (The Ascension of Christ)	
Thursday	Acts 1v15-26 (Peter's sermon to the disciples)	
Friday	Acts 2v1-21 (Peter's sermon to the people)	
Saturday	Acts 2 22-47 (The crowd is convicted and repent)	

Important Thought for us Today: Following the crowd's opinion is easy but what is the consequence? The crowd that followed the Lord were fickle (changeable), totally influenced by the passion of the mass, so that in the space of one week they changed from being the Lord's most ardent followers to His most ardent haters. **The consequence:** An innocent person died, and they were guilty! They only thought seriously for themselves as Peter spoke to them in their own tongue from the Bible; responding with serious heart-searching conviction as they accepted their guilt and need for forgiveness. Pressure from Family, School, Government, Social Media and Society can dictate an unthinking person's beliefs. A serious thinker will see that the belief of the masses can change from one day to the next as it has no moral compass or root! The Bible's message has never changed since the beginning of time. If we read it daily and follow its' message, we will not be led easily into sinful and fickle ways but helped to live aright before God.

Hymn 106, showing that it is God's free grace which overcomes our fickleness making us faithful:

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| 1. God of eternal love,
How fickle are our ways!
And yet how oft did Israel prove
The constancy of grace! | 2. They saw great wonders wrought,
And then God's praises sang;
But soon those works of power forgot,
And cried with murmuring tongue. |
| 4. Yet when they mourn their faults,
He listens to their prayer,
And moved with all a Father's thoughts,
Extends again His care. | 5. So let us bless the Lord,
For all His faithful ways
To those who keep His holy Word
And give Him all their praise. |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

The Fickle Crowd - Many Repent on the Day of Pentecost.

- **The Response of the Crowd** – later they heard the Gospel Preached:
 - **A week earlier they cried “Hosanna!”** (Meaning: ‘Save Us Now!’)

The crowds misunderstood the Old Testament promises and saw Jesus as a physical saviour from their oppressor, the Romans. They lined the road to Jerusalem throwing palm branches in His path, treating Him as royalty, who they thought would soon defeat the Romans and restore Israel to a mighty nation again. **‘Surely Jesus would be our king.’**

- **Then a Week Later then cried “Crucify Him!”**

Within a few days their euphoria and excitement turned to bitter disappointment when they saw Him easily arrested. They no longer saw Him as their new King who would rescue them - their cries of **“Hosanna!”** had fickle turned to cries of **“Crucify Him!”**

- **At the Cross, they Reviled Him.**

At the Feast of the Passover the Lord Jesus was crucified. Many at the foot of the cross mocked, saying, **“He saved others; Himself he cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.”** (Matthew 27 vs40-43).

- **They Witnessed His Resurrection** – As He said He would.

Death could not hold the Lord Jesus Christ, so on the third day, He rose again. **“This Jesus, hath God raised up.”** (Acts 2 v32), and that **“He is both Lord and Christ”**; (Acts 2 v36), the Saviour of lost sinners and the only way that anyone can be made right with God.

- **They Listened to Peter's Sermon** – 8 weeks after Palm Sunday, 7 after crucifixion.

Fifty days after the Passover (after the crucifixion), the Feast of Pentecost was held and the crowd gathered again, added to by Jews from different countries from as far as Egypt, Italy, and Persia. They witnessed a remarkable miracle; several uneducated fishermen, and others, from Galilee were now speaking fluently in each language represented in the crowd. Peter, the chief spokesman, told them that, because of their fickle behaviour, they were guilty of putting the Lord Jesus to death. (see Acts 2v22-39).

- **They Were Convicted of Their Sin.**

The crowd listened as they had never listened before. They saw that it was their sin, wickedness, and wilful ignorance that had put Christ to death. They, who had seen His miracles and heard His teaching, should have known that He was Almighty God, the One sent to spiritually save, and that they had been the ones to hand Him over to Pilate and demand His death. What great remorse and shame they now felt!

- **3,000 gladly received Peter's words and asked, “What shall we do to be saved?”**

Peter urged them to repent; to admit their guilt and trust only in the Lord Jesus Christ; the very One Whose death they caused was the One Who could save them! **What mercy!**

- **What Will We Do? Will We Repent and Turn from our Fickle Unbelief?**

Peter's sermon was also for everyone afar off - Us! Are we convicted that our sins caused the Lord's death? Will the joy of salvation be ours or will we face judgement for our guilt?

The Apostle John wrote, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”
1 John 1v9.