

First Quarter : Studies in the Lives of Peter and John

LESSON FOREWORD—Last Quarter, Peter and John were disciples. Now they are apostles. Last Quarter they were with Jesus. This Quarter they are without him. But they are new men, mightily persuaded of the resurrection of Jesus, and we study the boldness of Peter on the day of Pentecost arising from his conviction.

Lesson I.

PETER PREACHES AT PENTECOST

January 4, 1920

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Acts 2 : 14, 22-24, 32-42.

14 But Pe'ter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Juds'a, and all ye that dwell at Jeru'salem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words :

22 Ye men of Is'rael, hear these words ; Je'sus of Nas'areth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know :

23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknow'idge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain :

24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death : because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

32 This Je'sus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34 For Da'vid is not ascended into the heavens : but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

36 Therefore let all the house of Is'rael know assuredly, that God hath made that same Je'sus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Pe'ter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do ?

38 Then Pe'ter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Je'sus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized : and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

GOLDEN TEXT—Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.—Acts 2 : 21.

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—The Permanent Meaning of Pentecost. **ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**—Luke 24 : 49 ; Acts 1 : 8, 12-14 ; 4 : 31 ; 1 Cor. 12 : 4-11.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. A CRUCIFIED CHRIST.

—14, 22, 23. *Peter, standing up.* He who followed afar off, faces the multitude unflinchingly. The lesson includes the miracle of Peter's conversion, as well as that of the three thousand. Pentecost always begins with an emboldened Peter. *Be this known.* Some had thought to explain away the Pentecost miracle of tongues by drunkenness. This charge Peter refutes. *Jesus of Nasareth.* He begins with what they knew of Jesus. *Approved of God.* They could not deny the miracles he had wrought. *Delivered by the determinate counsel.* To Peter the cross is now a



THE DAY OF PENTECOST

divine design. The gospel has the cross in its heart. *By wicked hands have crucified.* The guilt of the crucifiers is none the less.

II. A RISEN CHRIST.—24-36. *Whom God . . . raised up.* Peter is as certain of the resurrection as he is of the death of Christ. Peter's conviction is equal to his courage. *Exalted ;* to the place of power as well as honor. *Hath shed forth this, which ye now see.* This miracle of tongues of which they were witness, has one explanation—Jesus. The death and resurrection of Jesus must form the centre of all messages that are Pentecostal. *David.* David uses words that