

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord *f* in the temple, and *k* breaking bread *a* from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.

*f* Luke 24. 63.—*k* Chap. 20. 7.—*a* Or, at home.

47 Praising God, and *l* having favour with all the people. And the *m* Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

*l* Rom 14. 18.—*m* Rom. 8. 30.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT.

Peter has ended his address; has shown Jesus as the Messiah and the fulfilment of prophecy; has sent home to the hearts of his hearers the arrow of truth; has made them realize that they have slain the One for whom the ages had waited. Now there is a deep and general emotion among the multitude. The devout Jews, from far and near, awake to their sin and their need, and ask, "What shall we do?" Peter, who has smitten their hearts, now pours in the balm of consolation, and points them to the way of peace. That day witnesses the thronging of three thousand into the open doors of the Church of Christ. They publicly confess their discipleship by receiving baptism, and show the thoroughness of the work of grace by their constant fellowship with the believers, from whom they receive instruction in the Gospel. The community of the twelve is enlarged to receive the new host; they give their property to the common needs, not by compulsion, but in voluntary and glad surrender, feeling that, owing all to God's grace, each can supply to the brotherhood what the others lack. The interest is not transient, but permanent. The new disciples, feeding upon the word, in fellowship with the apostles, partaking daily in the memorial supper of the Lord, and devoutly worshipping in the temple, grow in grace and knowledge, while the people look with favour upon the new and growing movement.

#### EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

**Verse 37. When they.** The multitude, consisting largely of pilgrims who had come to attend the feast, and foreign-born Jews resident in the city. **Heard this.** Peter's sermon, showing by the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies, that Jesus was their expected Messiah. **Pricked in their heart.** Awakened to the consciousness of their sin in consenting to the death of Christ. 1. The first effect of the gospel is to arouse a sharp compunction of conscience. **Said unto Peter.** As the spokesman and leader of the body. **Rest of the apostles.** As the meeting now broke up into small groups crowding around each of the apostles, and inquiring the way of salvation. **Men and brethren.** No longer were they contemptuously referred to as "Galileans" and drunkards. Vers. 7-13. 2. The gospel of Christ brings a new bond of brotherhood into existence. **What shall we do.** Their humble, teachable spirit, and their willingness to act, showed the thoroughness of their conviction. 3. Whoever wishes to be saved must be willing to act.

**38. Repent.** The word here does not refer to sorrow for sins, except so far as that sorrow

leads to the forsaking of sins. Literally it is, "change your purpose." 4. True repentance is an act, not a feeling. **Be baptized.** As the outward token of the inward change of relation, and the sign of full submission to Christ. **Every one of you.** Faith must exercise personally, by each one for himself. **In the name of Jesus Christ.** They were to regard Jesus from that hour as Christ and Saviour, submit to him as their King, and hope for salvation only through him. **For the remission of sins.** Revised Version, "Unto the remission." That is, as the condition upon which their sins, both in their penalty and their guilt, could be removed. 5. Through faith in Christ alone can sin be cleansed away. **Receive the gift.** Those who sought Christ should receive the same power as the apostles possessed, though not necessarily with the same outward manifestations.

**39. The promise.** Of forgiveness, salvation, and of the Holy Ghost. **Unto you.** "Even unto you, the crucifiers of your Lord," is the thought of the sentence. 6. If to them, why not to us? **To your children.** Not only to that generation, but to all their descendants. The word here does not seem to mean *children*, as such, though it includes them. **All that are afar off.** Peter here referred to the Jews dispersed in foreign lands, of whom many of his hearers were representatives. Though aware that the Gentiles were included in the Gospel plan, he then supposed that they were to be saved by first becoming Jews, and then disciples. **As many as the Lord... shall call.** By the preaching of the Gospel, not by an election or choice, since the word means "to summon" as by an herald.

**40. With many other words.** In response to the inquiries of the people. **Testify.** Bear witness to the facts of Jesus' history and to the truth of the Gospel. **Exhort.** Urging those who heard to accept the message of salvation. 7. Every sermon should contain both testimony and exhortation. **Untoward generation.** "Crooked generation." [Rev. Ver.] The condemnation pronounced against the Jewish nation as a body for rejecting its Redeemer.

**41. Gladly received his word.** They received the news of mercy all the more gladly, because they had been "pricked to the heart" with conviction. 8. The joy of faith soon follows the sorrow of repentance. **Were baptized.** "This can hardly have been by immersion.... The supply of water within the walls of Jerusalem was extremely scanty, and access to the reservoirs, most precious to the population of a large city, would not have been allowed to such a multitude."—*Canon Cook.* **Added unto them.** To the original one hundred and twenty believers. **Three thousand.** Many of these were doubtless transient residents, who may have carried the Gospel to distant lands.

**42. Apostles' doctrine.** "Teaching" (Rev. Ver.) more accurately represents the meaning. They received the instruction and training of the twelve in the principles of the Gospel.