

## Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible: Messianic Fulfillment Part Two and the Church

### Session Eight: Discussion Question Answers – Page 62

- 1. In describing Jesus' trial, Jeff says, "I am Barabbas" and "you are Barabbas." What does he mean by that?**
  - Jeff said, "I am Barabbas" and "you are Barabbas" because in taking the place of the condemned criminal, Barabbas, the innocent Jesus also took the place of each one of us.
- 2. What is the "Great Commission" Jesus gives his first disciples and us? (See Matthew 28:18-20.)**
  - After his resurrection, Jesus appears to his apostles and gives them what has traditionally been called the "Great Commission."
  - As the Gospel of Matthew states, *"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age'"* (Matthew 28:18-20).
  - We too are called to witness to the gospel, preaching it both with words and in the way we live as followers of Christ.
- 3. After his death and resurrection, how is Jesus able to live on in his Church?**
  - Christ lives on in the Church through the Holy Spirit, which lives in the hearts of Christian believers and which animates and unifies the body of the Christ, the Church.
- 4. Think About It: Based on what you know about the early days of the Church, what difference does the descent of the Holy Spirit make in the lives of the apostles?**
  - Before the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples huddled, afraid, in the Upper Room. Afterward, they were bold and joyful witnesses even to the point of death.
- 5. How are Pentecost and the sacrament of confirmation related?**
  - On Pentecost, which is recounted in Acts 2:1-31, the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles fifty days after Christ's resurrection, granting them "power from on high." They began to preach and bear witness to Jesus, as the risen Christ, the King, and the Lord.
  - In the sacrament of confirmation, the Holy Spirit is imparted to us to give us strength to give witness to and live in accord with the gospel of Christ.

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- 6. Name the "three waves of witness" that propel the gospel message outward from Jerusalem (see Acts 1:8)**
  - The gospel message is preached first in Jerusalem. Persecution pushes the disciples to witness in Judea and Samaria. From there, they take the "Good News" to the "ends of the earth." This process is described at the beginning of Acts (1:8), providing a structure for the entire book..
- 7. Jeff points out that Acts is like a story without an ending. So this story includes you. How can you live the life of Christ today?**
  - Answers will vary.

8. **Jesus calls you to be more than a believer; you are called to be a \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**How will you live your life differently because of that?**  
- We are called to be followers (disciples), not merely believers.

### **Adult Home Study for April 2023**

1. **Read: Luke 22-24, Acts**
2. **Read: Continue the Journey – pg. 64**

### **Working with our Children at Home in April 2023**

1. Readings from the **GPS Storybook** (White)
  - Chapter 21 – The Church Part I
  - Chapter 22 – The Church Part II
  - Chapter 23 – The Church Part III
  - Chapter 24 – The Church Part IV
2. Activities from the **GPS Workbook** (White) (Beginner – Intermediate – Advanced)
  - Chapter 21 – The Church Part I
  - Chapter 22 – The Church Part II
  - Chapter 23 – The Church Part III
  - Chapter 24 – The Church Part IV