

## I. PEOPLE CONDEMNED

### A. The Accusation (vs. 1-3)

1. Word travels fast – notice that it preceded even Peter himself
  - a. Long before he returned, it was talked about among the church
  - b. Be suspicious ALWAYS of anything said about someone ABSENT
  - c. Oh, Gossip! What a terrible stain on a church
    - i. WEBSTER'S 1828 – “To run about and tattle; to tell idle tales.”
    - ii. Be WARY! Gossip has split more than one church!
    - iii. EPH. 4:29 – “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.”
    - iv. EXO. 23:1 – “Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.”
    - v. JAMES 1:26 – “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.”
2. Deal UPRIGHTLY in the realm of Biblical FACT (3 P's and 3 more P's)
  - a. Is it a PRECEPT, a PRINCIPLE or just a PREFERENCE?
    - i. A precept is a direct Commandment from God's Word
    - ii. A principle is a truth that aligns with a precept
    - iii. A preference is immaterial to the Bible
  - b. If another violates a precept and a principle, then it is an offence
    - i. The Bible tells us EXACTLY how to deal with an offence!
    - ii. Privately: MATT. 18:15 – “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.”
    - iii. Plurally: MATT. 18:16 – “But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.”
    - iv. Publicly: MATT. 18:17 – “And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”
  - c. If it truly is a preference, then you need to learn to deal with it!
  - d. Not everyone likes pickles.
3. Look at the wording here – “contended” – That means FOUGHT

### B. Fault Finding and Complaining

1. They found fault before knowing the story!
    - a. The complained even though it didn't AFFECT them!
    - b. Didn't they have enough to worry about?
  2. Wonder if the dearth promised in vs. 28 was a lesson sent by God to get their eyes off OTHERS and back on HIM!
    - a. When they got hungry and destitute from the drought
    - b. Do you think they rejected the gifts from those Saved Gentiles?
  3. Isn't God in charge of my life?
    - a. If so, when I complain... who am I complaining about?
    - b. We don't have to be a sad sack, oh woe is me, guess I deserve it
    - c. But we SHOULD be looking for God's Hand in our lives!
    - d. ROM. 5:3 – "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;"
- C. Accept the Possibility
1. You might not have all the information
    - a. We often make up the "rest of the conversation"
    - b. We engage in the writing of fiction – purely made up in our minds
    - c. We think we know what motivates the other person and we don't
  2. Some not only go off half-cocked but pull the hammer back themselves!
  3. Don't look for reasons to complain and find fault
  4. Let's see what Peter does with this condemnation

## II. PETER'S CHALLENGE

- A. Peter Provides the Facts (vs. 4-18)
1. Always allow for the fact that \*I\* might be wrong
    - a. Problem or no problem – tell the TRUTH
      - i. Dispassionately, without emotion
      - ii. Distinctly, without embellishment
      - iii. Directly, without exaggeration
    - b. Be humble and ready to receive correction if needed
    - c. None of us knows everything, none of us is perfect
  2. We could be wrong. But we COULD be RIGHT!
    - a. That's part of the social contract for polite discussions
    - b. If the other party cannot accept that, we have little to discuss
    - c. In a church, there should NEVER be an issue with accepting TRUTH
  3. Peter simply recounts the facts as he (and only he knew them)
- B. Peter Boldly Challenges Them to Take a Position! (vs. 17)
1. This is an EXCELLENT question – what else should I have done?
  2. What else COULD I have done that would be in obedience to God?
- C. This is a Biblical Response!
1. Let the Bible do your arguing!
  2. Look at the results (vs. 18)
    - a. They held their peace (he had shut their mouths)

- b. They glorified God!
- c. They spoke aloud their AGREEMENT <- this is key!
- 3. This is an AMAZING Bible example of how disagreements should resolve

### III. PREACHING CONTINUES

- A. The Gospel Witness is Spreading (vs. 19-20)
  - 1. ROM. 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
  - 2. Naturally! To the Jew first, but ALSO to the Greek
  - 3. Jesus said this to the woman at the well: JOHN 4:22 – “Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.”
- B. They Preached to the Jews (vs. 19)
  - 1. We saw how the church at Jerusalem was scattered abroad – ACTS 8:4
    - a. Every member a missionary
    - b. That should be the same today – there should be no difference
    - c. If we don’t preach in good times, will we preach in bad times?
  - 2. After Stephen was martyred, they traveled to the nearby cities
    - a. And people were SAVED (vs. 21)
    - b. That’s what happens when the Word of God is preached
  - 3. ISA. 55:11 – “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”
- C. They Preached to the Hellenistic Jews (vs. 20)
  - 1. It does not say here “Greek” nor does it say “Gentile”
    - a. These were the Hellenistic Jews – the “worldly” Jews
    - b. The men of Cypress and Cyrene were a little farther away from the rigid religiosity of Jerusalem
    - c. A Hellenistic Jew was beneath the notice of a Pharisee
  - 2. This was almost like starting new ministry out of the church at Antioch
    - a. Like a Spanish service – this was a new idea for many of them
    - b. The Gospel pushed them out of their comfort zone
    - c. And the Gospel would CONTINUE to push them further yet!
  - 3. Peter proved that God would have the Gospel go to the Gentiles
    - a. And He is already PREPARING men to do it!
    - b. Barnabas will soon be sent to Antioch
    - c. God is moving His chess pieces – His strategy is CERTAIN

### IV. POWERFUL CHURCH

- A. The Rise of the Church at Antioch (vs. 22-26)
  - 1. This church becomes the great Missions Church of the New Testament
    - a. A great example to all of us who come after in Missions Work

- b. From Antioch we will learn how to send out Missionaries
    - c. From Antioch we will learn how Missionaries should act
    - d. From Antioch we will learn how Missionaries should report
  - 2. The Hand of the Lord was with them (vs. 21)
    - a. And a GREAT number believed (Saved)
    - b. And TURNED UNTO the Lord (Followed: i.e. Baptized, Discipled)
  - 3. God was truly moving within Antioch Baptist Church
    - a. Do you know how to detect God's movement in a church?
    - b. It isn't in the emotions, but services should be a blessing
    - c. It isn't in the dynamic preaching, but the messages should be Biblical and not boring and dry
    - d. It is in the ENGAGEMENT of the people
    - e. Missions' programs, soul winning, people being baptized...
- B. A Great Revival Brakes Out
  - 1. And THAT news ALSO travelled fast – Barnabas was dispatched to check
    - a. He was a true man of God, a sweet and encouraging spirit (vs. 24)
    - b. We remember how he treated his former enemy Saul
    - c. See his reaction in vs. 23 – He was GLAD (not annoyed or critical)
  - 2. The critical spirit of those at Antioch PREVENTED revival
    - a. When Peter showed them the Word of God
    - b. They got their hearts right
    - c. And a SWEET spirit ENABLED revival!
  - 3. Barnabas thought – you know who needs to see this! Saul!
  - 4. And he went to get him (vs. 25-26)
- C. The Name "Christian"
  - 1. The first place this name was used – Christ-ian (Christ – Like)
  - 2. Used by those outside of a church as a term of derision
  - 3. Used by those who love the Lord as a term of endearment!

## V. PROPHETIC COMFORT

- A. A Prophecy is Revealed (vs. 27-30)
  - 1. God uses Agabus to foretell a great dearth in the land
  - 2. The church acts to help a sister church
  - 3. Every man gave as he was able
- B. A Greater Prophecy is Revealed and Ready Even NOW!
- C. Take Advantage of the Forewarning!
  - 1. The matter is as sure as the dearth in Jerusalem
  - 2. ACTS 17:30 – "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"
  - 3. Be Saved Today!