

The Lord's Plan Produces Great Results

(Matthew 28:19-20)

Introduction:

1. In Matthew 28:19-20 Jesus gave the Great Commission to His apostles.
 - a. (vs.19) He told them what to do so people would know how to be saved.
 - b. (vs.20) He told them what to do so their converts would know how to live after they were saved.
2. These principles are illustrated in a powerful way in Acts 2:41-47.
3. In Jerusalem, when the apostles did what Jesus had told them to do,:
 - a. about 3,000 people complied with the Lord's plan to be saved
 - b. these people continued following the Lord's plan after they were saved.
4. Let us be assured that "the Lord's plan produces great results."

Discussion:

- I. (vs.41) ABOUT 3,000 PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM COMPLIED WITH THE LORD'S PLAN TO BE SAVED
 - A. Those who gladly received Peter's message were baptized.
 1. Peter had preached a great Gospel sermon.
 2. (vs.37) The people in the audience asked Peter and the other apostles what they needed to do.
 3. Peter responded to their question in vs.38.
 - B. Where did these instructions originate?
 1. These instructions did not originate with Peter.
 2. These instructions came from the Lord (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16).
 - C. We learn from these people in Jerusalem how to comply with the Lord's plan to be saved.
- II. (vs.42-46) THE NEW CONVERTS IN JERUSALEM COMPLIED WITH THE LORD'S PLAN AFTER THEY WERE SAVED
 - A. As we examine the activities of these people in Jerusalem, we see that a beautiful spirit of *unity* existed in that congregation.
 1. We learn this from several statements.
 - a. (vs.42) "*They continued steadfastly*" in 4 important activities.
 - b. (vs.44) "*All that believed were together.*"
 - c. (vs.46a) They continued "*daily with one accord in the temple.*"
 2. How did these people know that they were to be united?
 - a. (Matthew 28:20) Jesus instructed the apostles to teach their converts all things that He had commanded them.

- b. Jesus taught the apostles about unity as He prayed in John 17:11, 20-23.
 - B. As we examine the activities of these people in Jerusalem, we also see that a beautiful spirit of *love* existed in that congregation.
 - 1. We learn this from several statements.
 - a. (vs.45) They sacrificed to provide for the needy.
 - b. (vs.46b) They enjoyed being with one another as they ate meals together.
 - 2. How did these people know that they were to love each other?
 - a. (Matthew 28:20) Jesus instructed the apostles to teach their converts all things that He had commanded them.
 - b. Jesus taught the apostles about love in John 13:34-35; 15:12-13, 17.
- III. (vs.47) COMPLYING WITH THE LORD'S PLAN PRODUCED GREAT RESULTS IN JERUSALEM
 - A. (vs.47a) The Christians in Jerusalem had "*favor with all the people.*"
 - B. (vs.47b) The congregation in Jerusalem grew daily.

Conclusion:

- 1. Let us study the Scriptures carefully and diligently so we can know the Lord's plan.
- 2. May the Lord help us appreciate the importance of complying with His plan.
- 3. To be more specific, may the Lord help us:
 - a. to do our part in teaching others the Gospel so they can be saved
 - b. as His followers, to be united and to love one another.
- 4. If we will devote ourselves to these principles, the Lord will bless us with great results.