

## **BREAKING DOWN THE WALLS THAT HINDER GOD'S GRACE**

**By Roy Goodlet**

What was it like leading up to Pentecost in Acts 2? Many people were following Jesus because they were enthralled with His miracles and wonders. Other people followed Him because they thought He would be the leader of a revolt to overthrow the Roman oppressors. Still others followed Him because He was their Lord. When He died, the first two groups lost their dreams, because they believed the man was gone. The third group was bewildered, because they knew death didn't seem to fit into His character or teachings. When He resurrected from the dead it was this last group that turned into dynamic, bold believers who could not help but share their good news with everyone else.

Not many weeks previous to this, Peter was a man who denied Jesus, because he was afraid. But now Peter was a different man. He was letting the Holy Spirit fill his life, and on Pentecost he was speaking to many of the same people he was once afraid of. About 3,000 responded to his bold message and were baptized, but this was only the beginning. The world was ripe to hear the gospel message, and in Acts 4:4 the number of believers grew to about 5,000.

I read reports from mission teams going into other countries and baptizing just as many people into Christ as were baptized on Pentecost. Why can't we get a vision of doing whatever we believe is necessary to make bold believers out of us to win the lost? Do we believe that the world does not want to hear about our Christ? As Christians, there should be no doubt in our minds as to what people need. People do want to worship in a meaningful way, and not experience a ritual. People in America know a little about Jesus, but they also desire a meaningful relationship with Him. Let's offer people Jesus in the best way we know how, but let's remember it is the person that is more important and not how we offer it on Sunday mornings.

How do we offer the world happiness? Does the gospel need to be watered down? We already know that kind of gospel has failed. People really want to know the truth. It is going to take some bold believers, like those on the day of Pentecost, to let the world know Jesus is truth. As a church we need to take the risk and step out on faith to do whatever we need to do to win the lost. Once again, my purpose and your purpose is not to please the crowd, but to seek the lost in the most effective ways possible. People need to know that Jesus is wild about them, and they will know it if we believe He is wild about us too.

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