

Handout 1: Acts Lesson 3

St. Peter's five homilies delivering the *kerygma* of the Gospel message of salvation:

1. To the Jewish crowd at Pentecost in Acts 2:14-39
2. To the Jews after healing the lame man at the Temple in Acts 3:12-26
3. To the Sanhedrin with John in Acts 4:8-12
4. To the Sanhedrin with the other Apostles in Acts 5:29-32
5. To the Roman Gentile Cornelius and his household in Acts 10:34-43

The contrasts between Joseph Barnabas and Ananias and his wife Sapphira in Acts 4:36-5:11

Barnabas	Ananias and Sapphira
Barnabas gave truthfully and generously to the community from his sale of property.	Ananias and Sapphira conspired to defraud the community in lying about their gift of the sale of their land.
Barnabas' gift was an act of righteousness for which he received the gratitude of the community and a new name from the Apostles.	Ananias and Sapphira used their gift and their lie to seek status within the community.
Barnabas laid his donation to the community at the feet of the Apostles.	In the divine judgment of her sin, Sapphira <i>fell down at his feet [Peter] and breathed her last.</i>
Barnabas' righteousness came from both loving God and fear of offending God.	Ananias and Sapphira did not fear God in testing the Holy Spirit by lying.
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Parallels of the Missions of Jesus and Peter in Luke and Acts	
Jesus	Peter
Mission inaugurated by the Holy Spirit (Lk 3:22)	Mission inaugurated by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)
Jerusalem Sermon on the Last Days (Lk 21:5-36)	Jerusalem Sermon on the Last Days (Acts 2:22-36)
Lame healed (Lk 7:22; 14:13)	Lame healed (Acts 3:1-10)
Miraculous healings including curing the sick and casting out demons (Lk 4:33-35; 38-42; 5:12-13, 17-25; 7:1-10; 8:22-25, 27-31; 9:37-43)	Miraculous healings including curing the sick and casting out demons (Acts 5:12, 15-16)
Raising the dead (Lk 7:11-15; 8:41-42, 51-55)	Raising the dead (Acts 9:36-41)
Arrested by the priests, Temple guard and elders (Lk 22:52-54)	Arrested by the priests, Temple guard, and Sadducees (Acts 4:1; 5:17)
Trial by the Sanhedrin (22:66-71)	Trial by the Sanhedrin (4:5-21; 5:17-41)
Beaten by the order of the religious authorities (Lk 22:66-65)	Beaten by the order of the religious authorities (Acts 5:40)
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Handout 2: Acts Lesson 3

The laying of hands was a means of transferring power:

1. To transfer the essence of the offerer to the life of the animal offered in sacrifice (Ex 29:10; Lev 1:4).
2. To communicate the power of a spiritual gift in the act of a blessing (Gen 48:13-14; Mt 19:13-15; Acts 3:3).
3. To communicate the power of the Holy Spirit in baptism (Acts 8:14-17; 19:5-6; Heb 6:2).
4. To consecrate someone to a theological or ecclesiastical office (Num 8:10; 27:18; Dt 34:9; Acts 6:6; 1 Tim 4:14; 5:22).
5. To heal by Jesus and the Apostles (Mt 9:18; Mk 6:5; 7:32; 8:23-25; 16:18; Lk 4:40; 13:13; Acts 9:12, 17; 28:8).
6. To select a substitute or successor (Num 8:10; 27:18; Dt 34:9).
7. To sentence a criminal to death (Lev 24:14).

Parallels to Jesus' Passion narrative in the attack against Stephen and in his arrest:

	Jesus	Stephen
His opponents could not withstand his wisdom.	<i>No one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare to ask him any more questions (Mt 22:46). And they no longer dared to ask him anything (Lk 20:40). Also Mt 22:46; Mk 12:17; Lk 20:19, 26, 40.</i>	<i>... but they could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke (Acts 6:10).</i>
His enemies conspired against him to arrest him.	<i>For the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should inform them, so they might arrest him (Jn 11:57). Also Mt 26:3-4; Mk 14:1; Lk 22:2; Jn 11:47-53, 57.</i>	<i>They stirred up the people, the elders, and the scribes, accosted him, seized him, and brought him before the Sanhedrin (Acts 6:12).</i>
They brought forward false witnesses.	<i>The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus ... (Mt 26:59). Also Mt 26:59-62; Mk 14:56-57.</i>	<i>They presented false witnesses who testified ... (Acts 6:13).</i>
The charge of blasphemy was made against him.	<i>He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy ... (Mt 26:65-66). Also Mt 26:65-66; Mk 14:56-57; 64.</i>	<i>Then they instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God" (Acts 6:11).</i>
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