



**Dr. Jack Scott**

**Study of Acts:  
Introduction**

**We're glad you're here!**

**Acts is the second volume of a two-volume work (Luke-Acts).**

**Acts is the main account of the early church.**

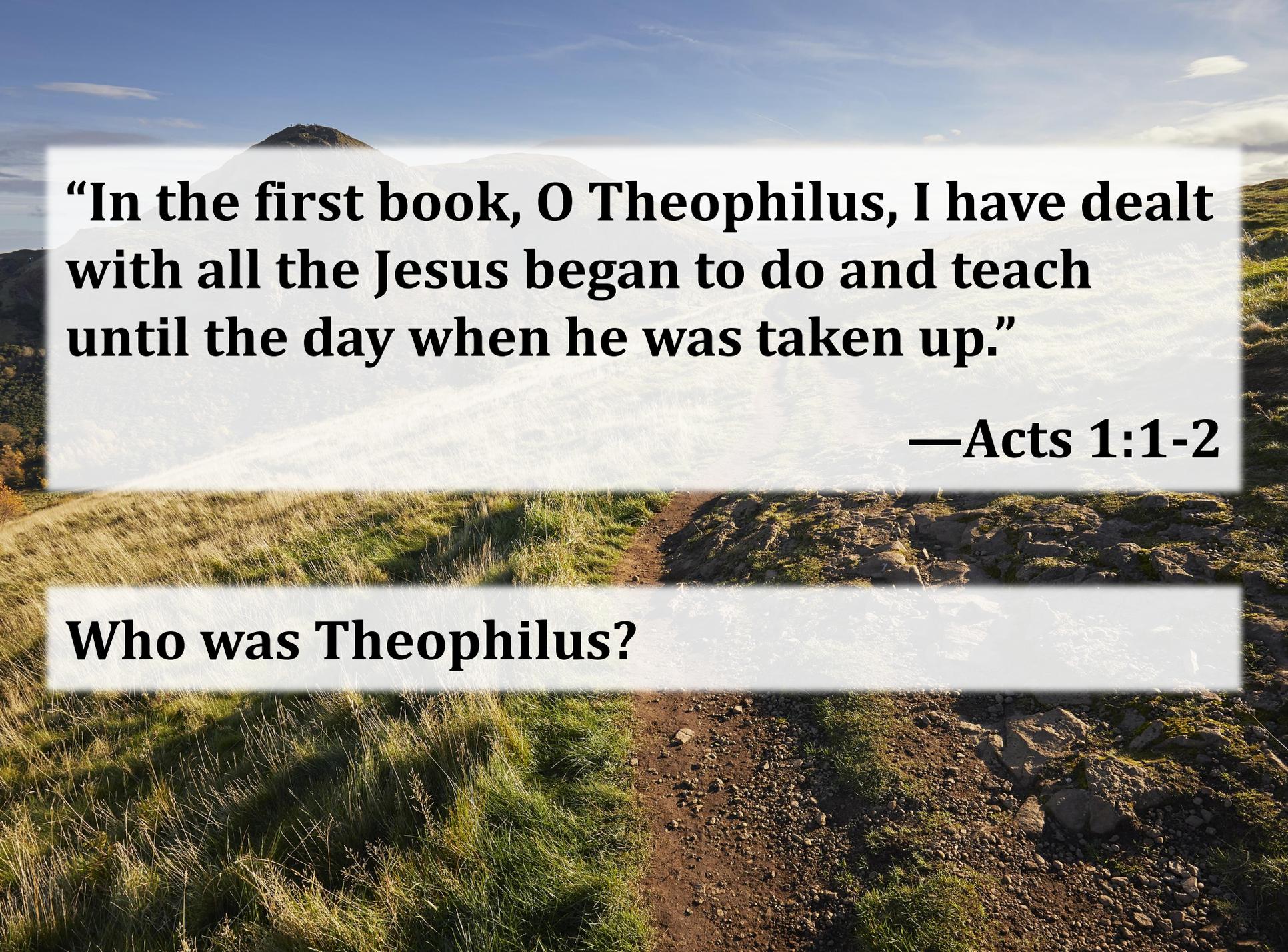
**Author – Luke**

- **The “we” passages (16:10-17; 20:5-16; 21:1-18; 27:1-28:16)**
- **Paul mentioned Luke as a fellow worker in his epistles (Colossians 4:14; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11)**

**Date – AD 64 or later**

## **Central themes in Acts**

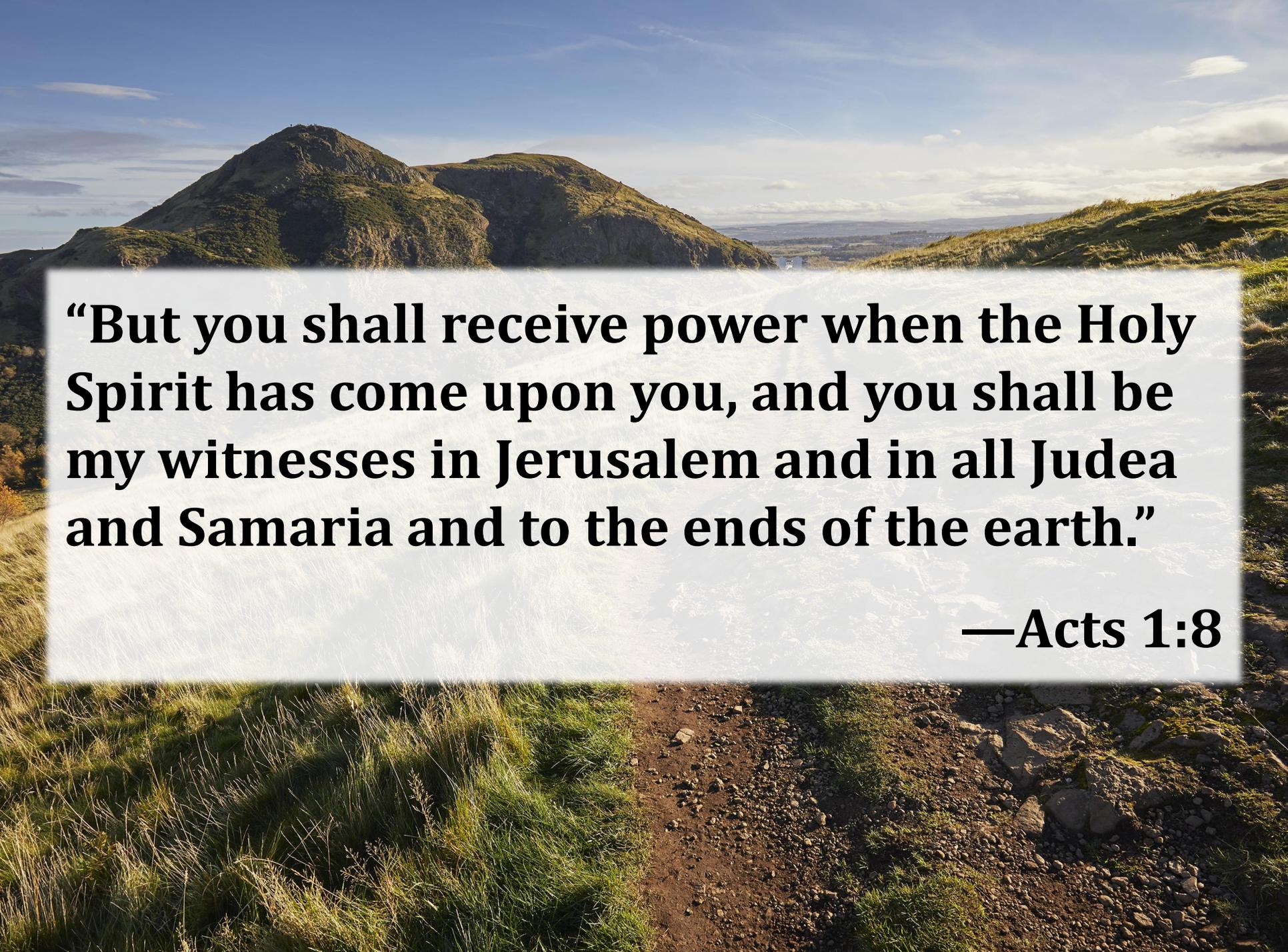
- **The work of the Holy Spirit**
- **Sympathy for the poor**
- **The contribution of women**
- **Problems and factions within the early church**
- **The church as a law-abiding organization**



**“In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all the Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up.”**

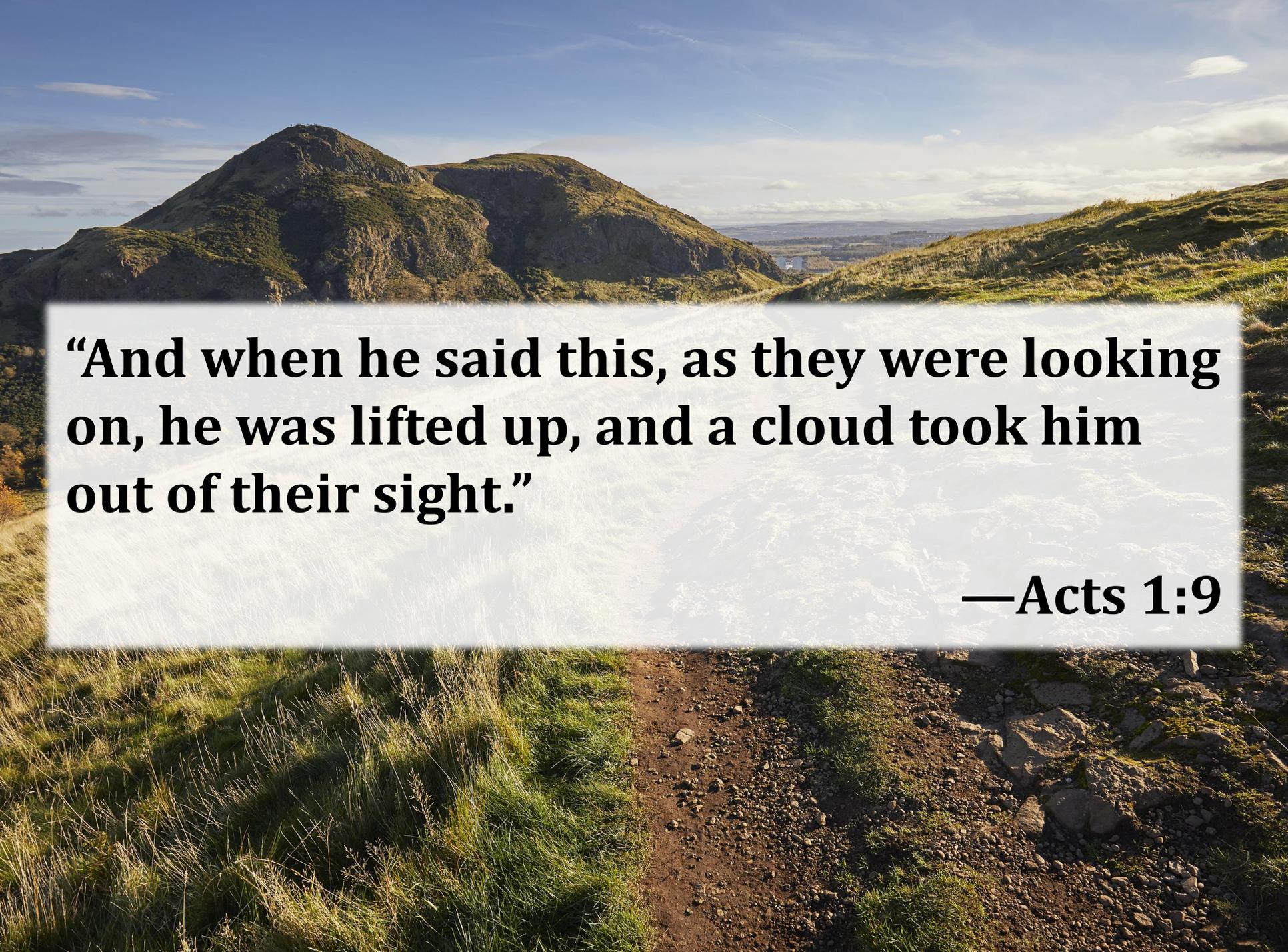
**—Acts 1:1-2**

**Who was Theophilus?**



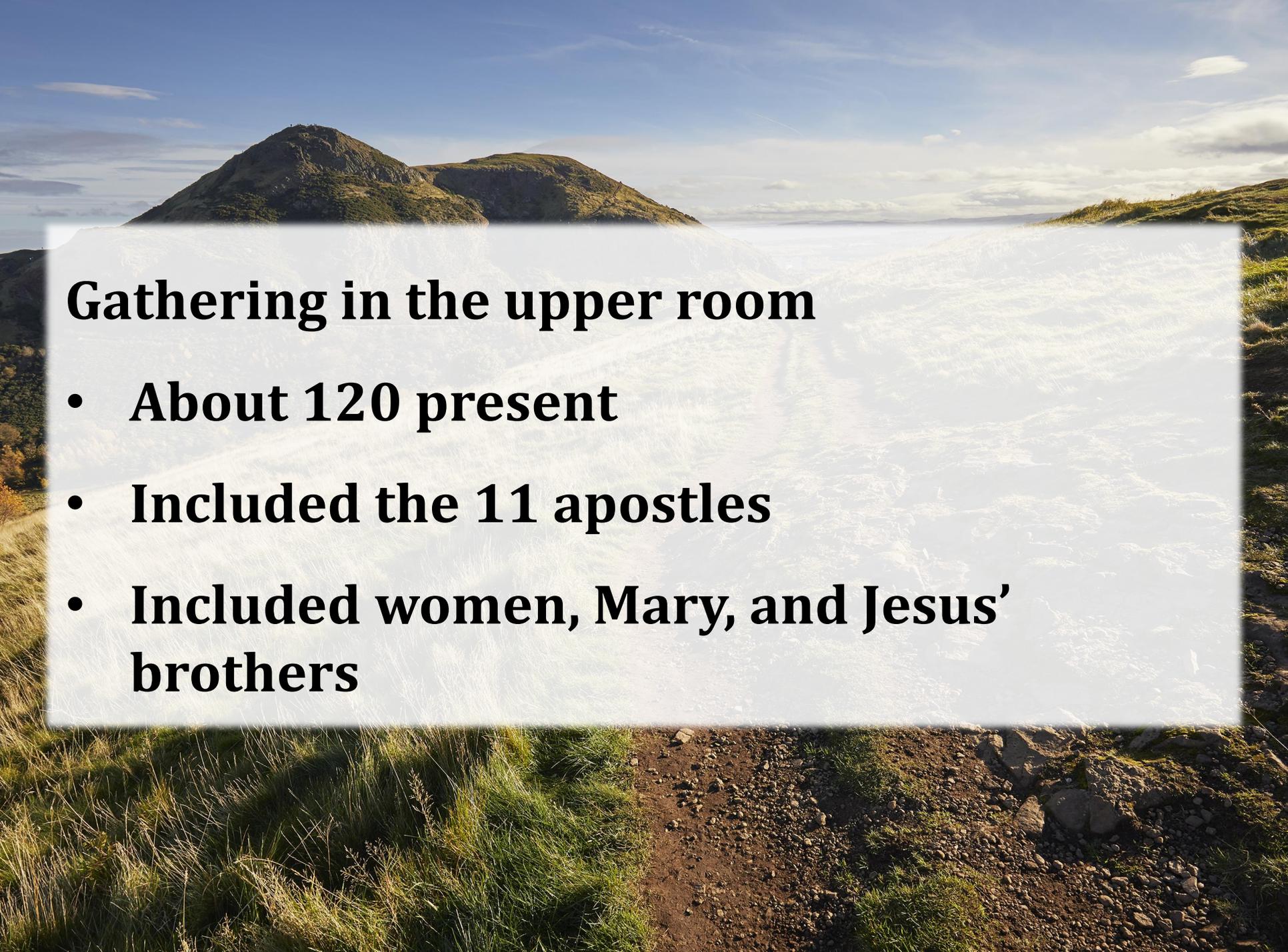
**“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”**

**—Acts 1:8**



**“And when he said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”**

**—Acts 1:9**



## **Gathering in the upper room**

- **About 120 present**
- **Included the 11 apostles**
- **Included women, Mary, and Jesus' brothers**

## **Replacement of Judas (1:15-26)**

- **Peter's description of Judas's death**
- **Replacement of Judas must be a witness of Jesus' ministry and a witness of his resurrection**
- **Matthias is chosen by the casting of lots (1:26)**

## **The outpouring of the Holy Spirit (2:1-13)**

- **Jesus predicted this: “John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (1:5).**
- **Accompanied by a sound “like the rush of a mighty wind” and “appeared to them tongues as of fire” (2:2-3)**
- **This attracted a crowd from many nations (from Medes in the East to Rome in the West) who began to hear the speeches in their languages.**

## **Peter's sermon**

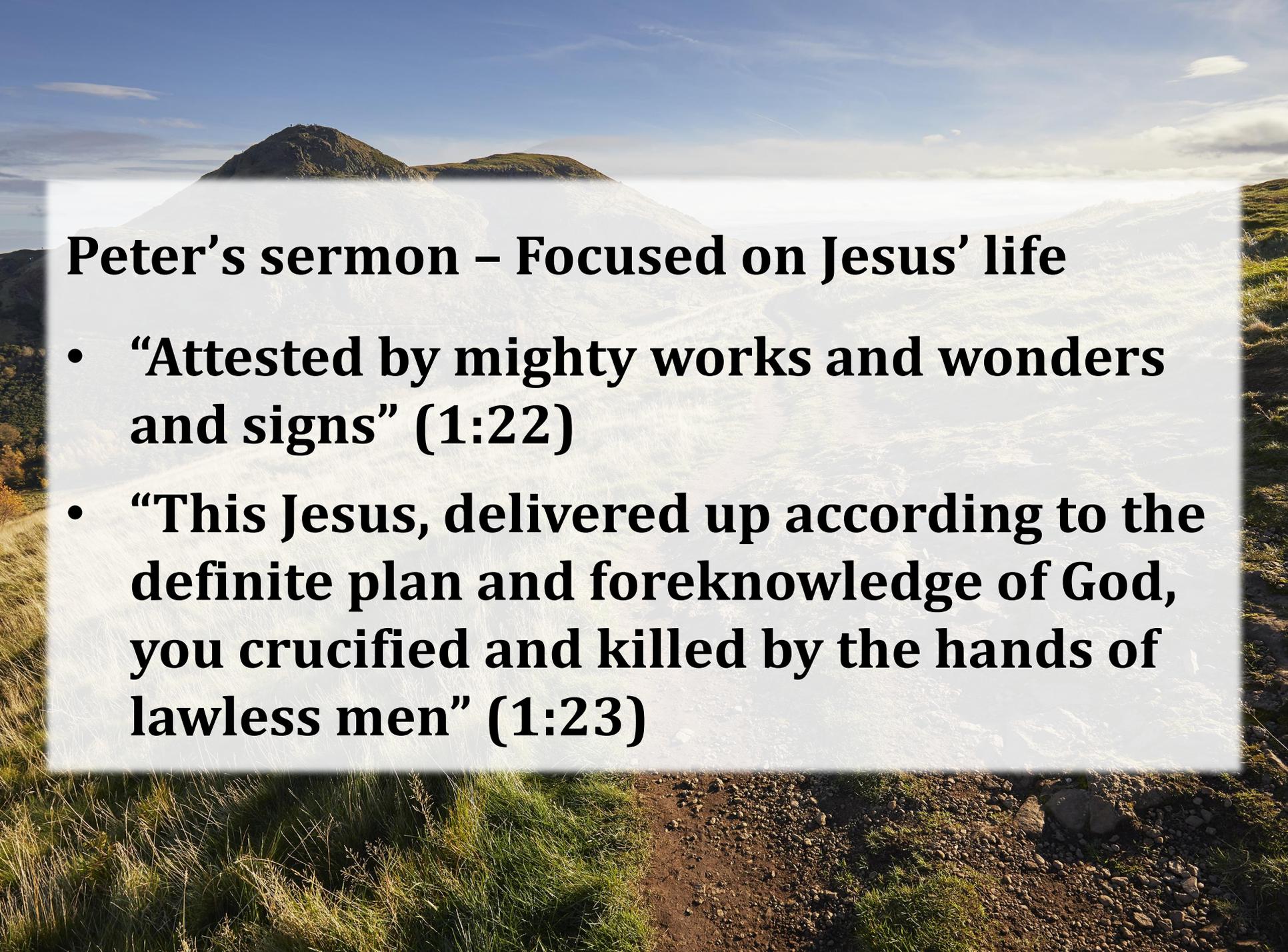
- **He cited Joel 2:28-32 as being fulfilled:**

**“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,**

**That I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
And your sons and daughters shall prophesy,**

**And your young men shall see visions,  
And your old men shall dream dreams...**

**And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

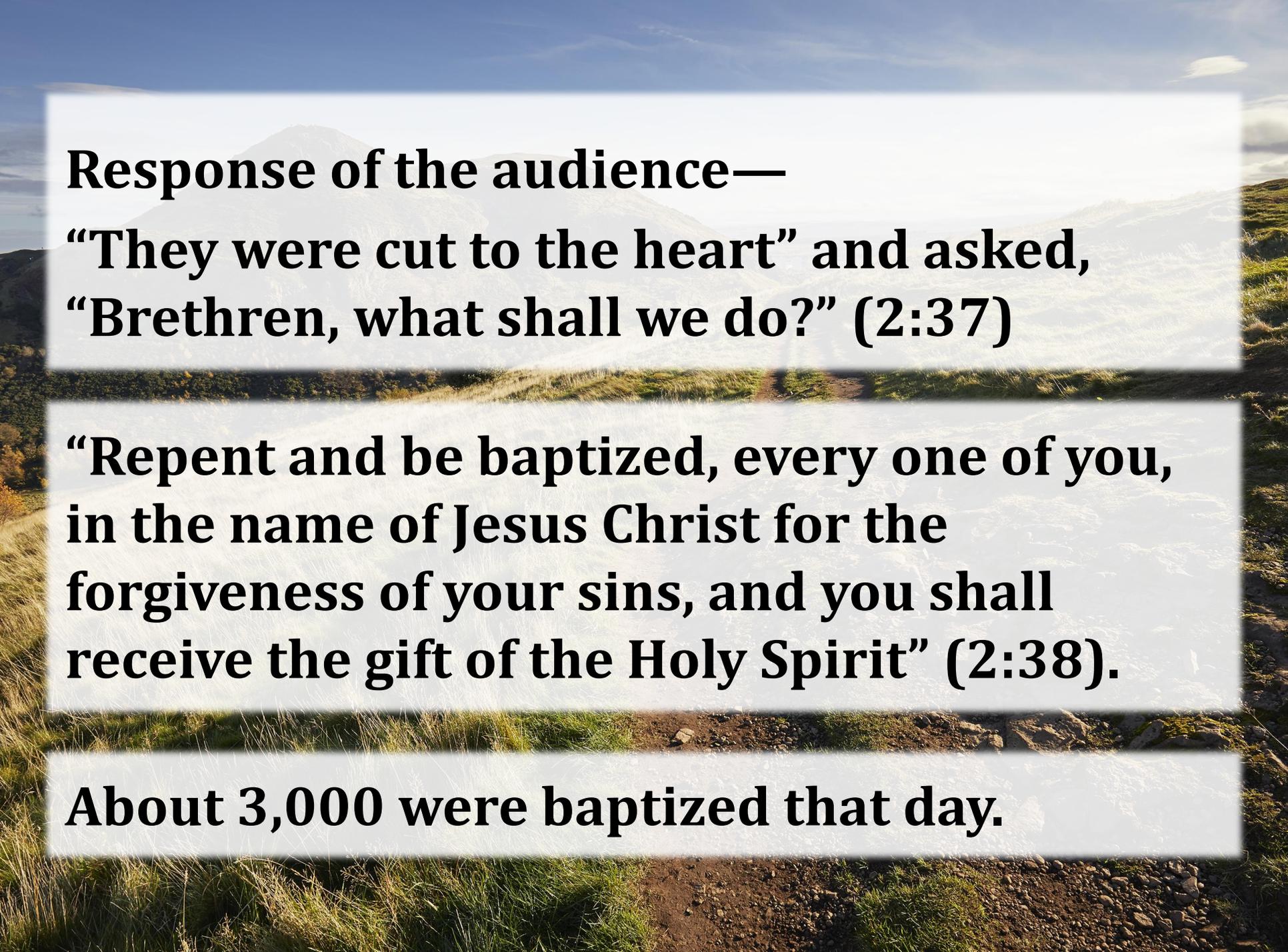


## **Peter's sermon – Focused on Jesus' life**

- **“Attested by mighty works and wonders and signs” (1:22)**
- **“This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men” (1:23)**

# **Peter's sermon – Resurrection of Jesus**

- **Psalm 16:10 – “For thou wilt not abandon my soul to Hades, nor let thy Holy One see corruption.”**
- **Peter argues that David was not speaking of himself but that he foresaw and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ.**
- **Peter affirms that they are witnesses of the resurrection.**
- **Peter concludes: “God made him both Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified” (2:36).**

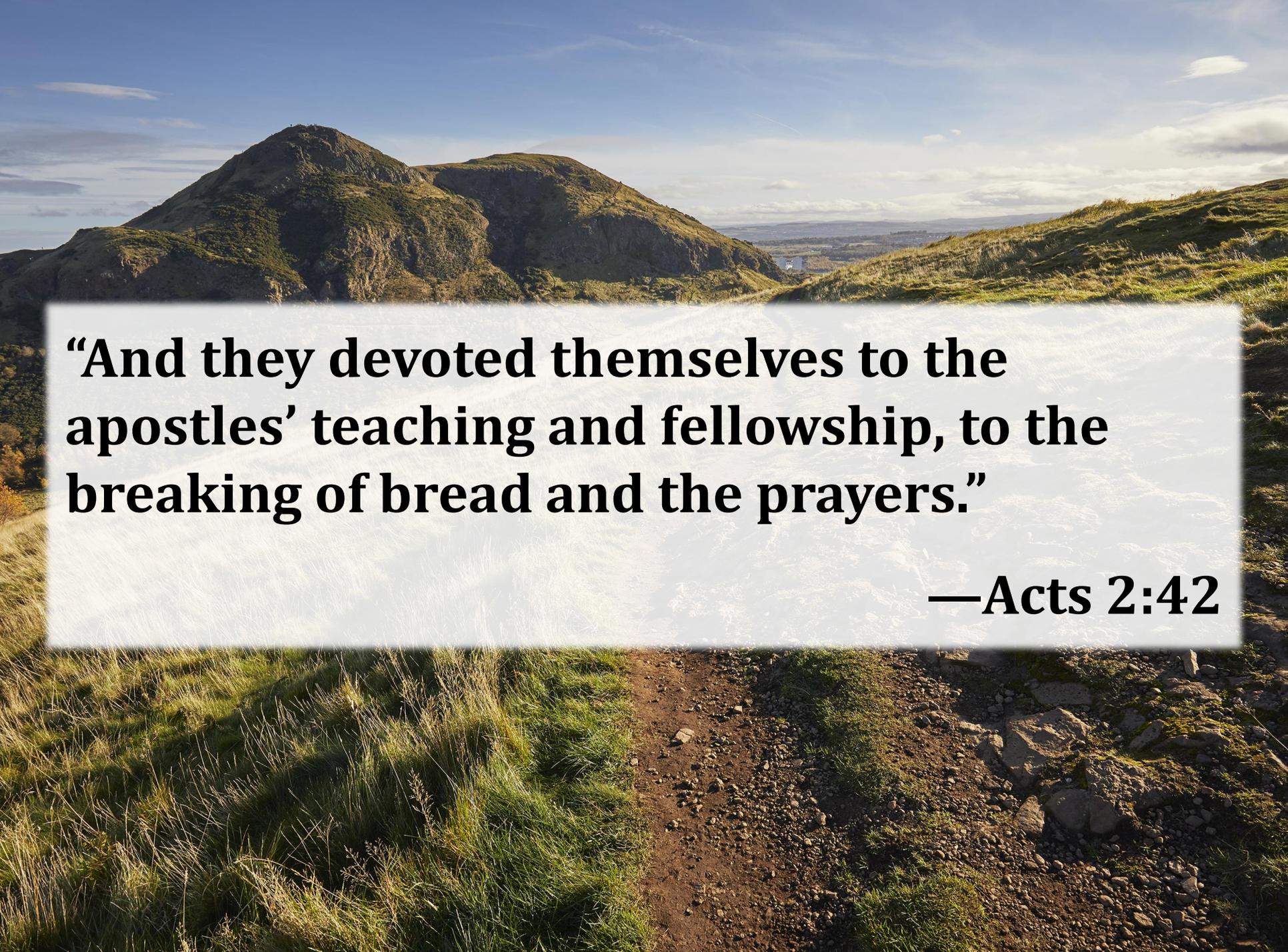


**Response of the audience—**

**“They were cut to the heart” and asked,  
“Brethren, what shall we do?” (2:37)**

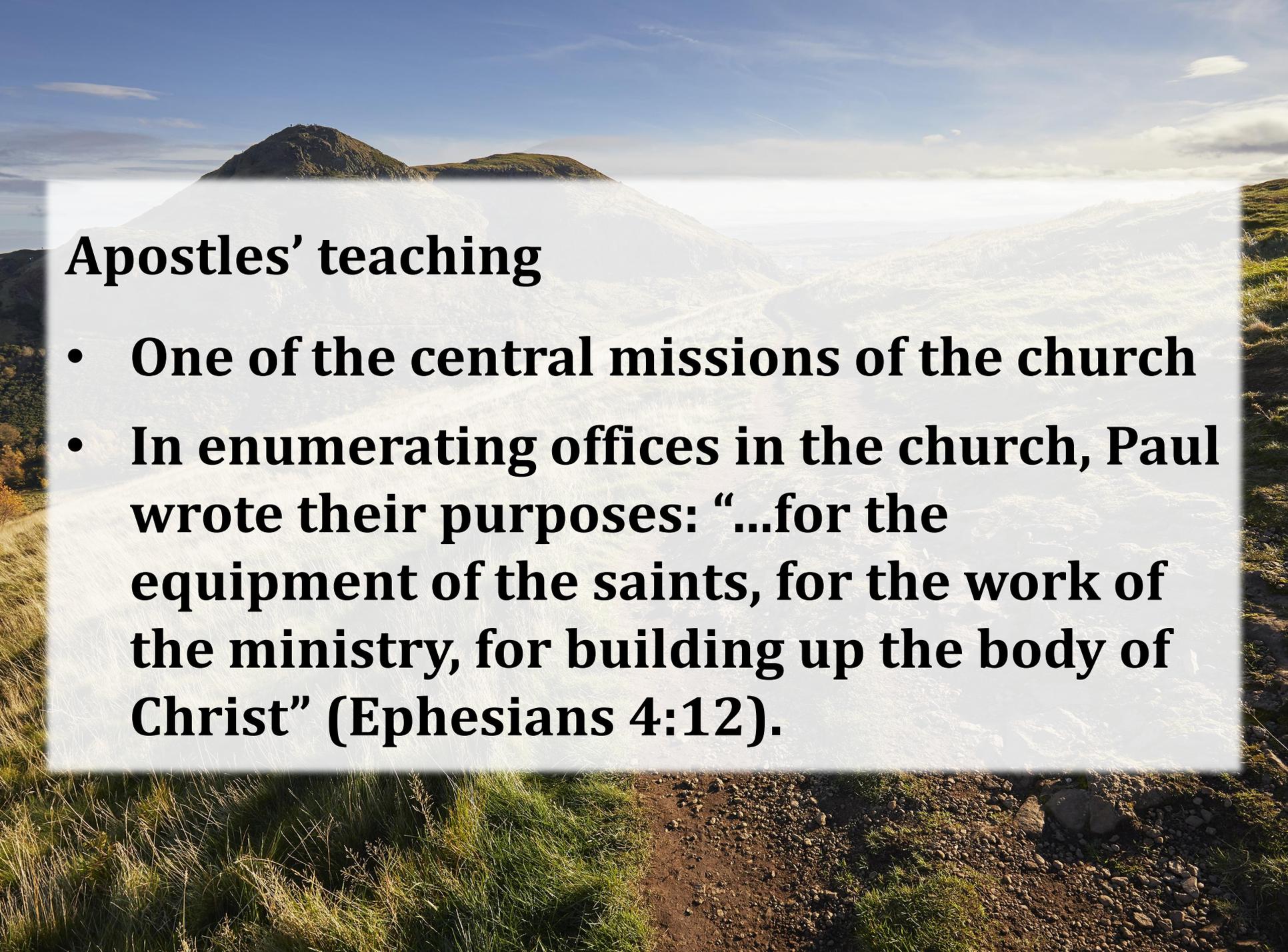
**“Repent and be baptized, every one of you,  
in the name of Jesus Christ for the  
forgiveness of your sins, and you shall  
receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (2:38).**

**About 3,000 were baptized that day.**



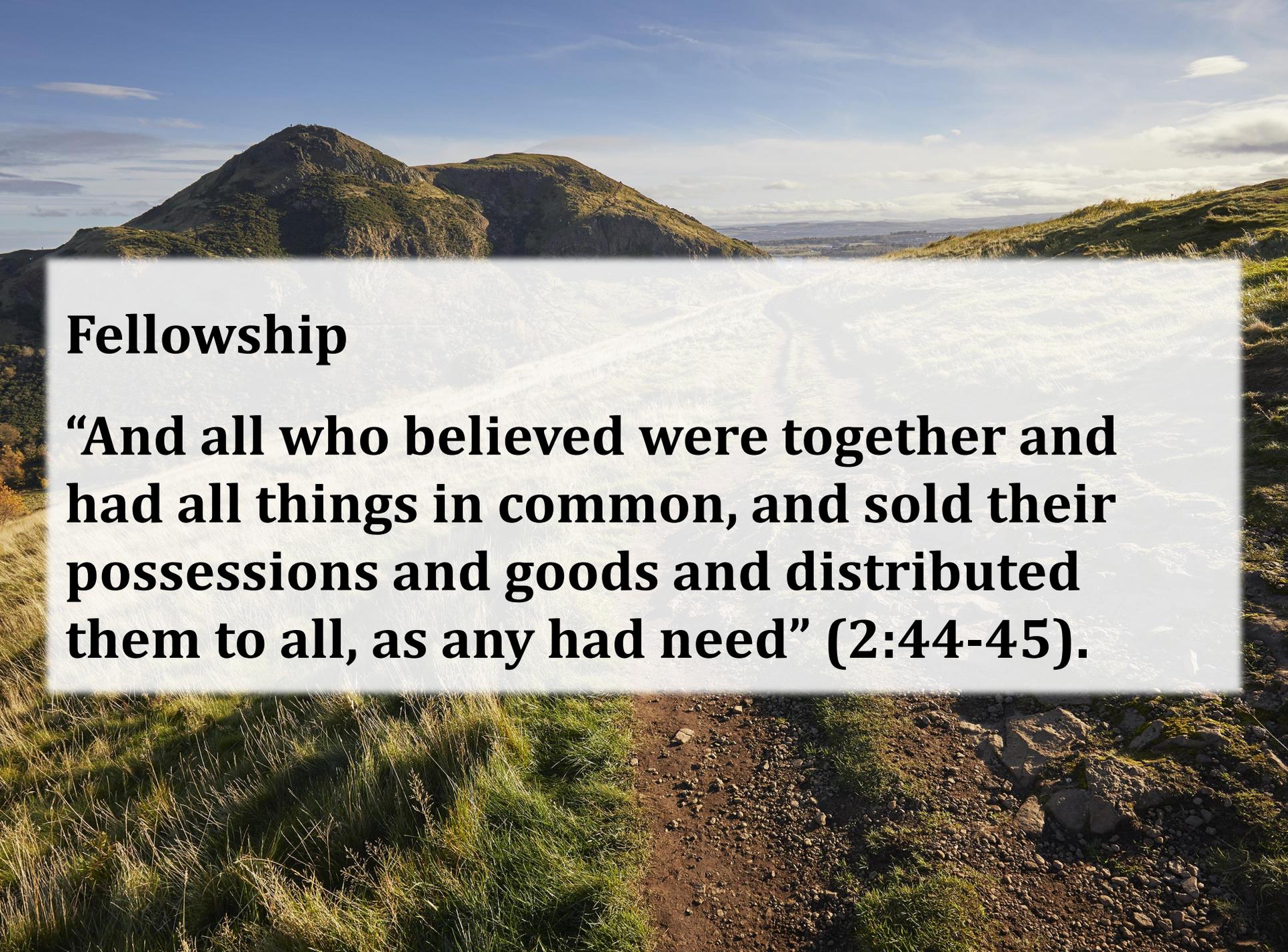
**“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”**

**—Acts 2:42**



## **Apostles' teaching**

- **One of the central missions of the church**
- **In enumerating offices in the church, Paul wrote their purposes: “...for the equipment of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12).**



## **Fellowship**

**“And all who believed were together and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods and distributed them to all, as any had need” (2:44-45).**



## **Breaking of bread**

**This term may mean sharing a common meal (2:46), or it may refer to the Lord's Supper (20:7).**

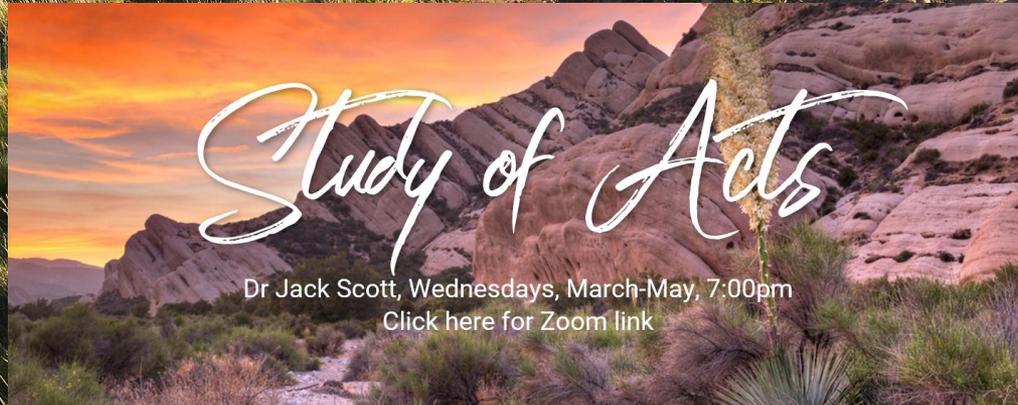
# Prayer

- **Central to the early church**
- **After Peter and John were persecuted (4:24-31)**
- **After Peter's arrest (12:5)**
- **During Paul and Silas's imprisonment at Philippi (16:25)**



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[sierramadrechurch.org](http://sierramadrechurch.org)



**Join us next week!**



**Sunday  
Mornings  
10:00am**

**You're always welcome!**