

Acts 2:14-47

Peter Preaches From The Hip

? What's the most exciting news you've ever received? How did you react when you first heard it?

PART ONE: Peter's Sermon

Acts 2:14-36 (NIV)

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. ¹⁵ These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ "'In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

²² "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. ²⁵ David said about him:

"'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. ²⁶

Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, ²⁷ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"'The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand ³⁵ until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'"

³⁶ "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

Questions For Discussion

? In verses 17-21, Peter quotes from the Old Testament book of Joel (Joel 2:28-29). When Joel talks about the “last days,” what do you think he’s actually looking forward to? What is he hoping for?

? Similarly, David’s poetry (Psalm 16:8-11), quoted in verses 25-28, praises God for many things. What is David looking forward to?

? Looking at verses 22-24 and 29-33, what does Peter say about Jesus in light of these Old Testament prophecies?

? In verse 21, Peter quotes Joel saying, “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved,” alluding to the fact that Jesus is that name. How would this interpretation have been radical to Jews of the day?

? What implications do the “last days” have on your life now?

? This revelation made Jesus’ disciples so excited that they seemed drunk. Has this revelation ever made you that excited? Why or why not?

What’s In A Name?

One of the Jewish words for God is the term Yahweh. The Jewish people believed this name for God was so sacred that whenever they read scripture out loud they would substitute it with another word that meant Lord. Jews considered the written term Yahweh so sacred that it should never be spoken or expressed with human lips. This reverence for God’s name helped the Jewish people to maintain a sense of piety and

PART TWO: The Response

Acts 2:37-47 (NIV)

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Questions for Discussion



How might the crowd’s response be a good example for us when we feel “cut to the heart?”



How do you tend to react when you are “cut to the heart?”



In response to Jesus’ work on the cross, Peter tells the crowd to “repent and be baptized.” Why are these good responses to Christian conviction?

For Discussion And Accountability

? In the midst of everyday life, how can you consistently “call on the name of the Lord?”

? Are you feeling “cut to the heart” about anything right now? How might the Gospel speak peace into that situation?