



Sermon Text: Acts 2:14-36

Sermon Date: August 27, 2017

This Sunday we turned our attention to Peter's Pentecost sermon. This is one of the most important sermons in the history of the church. We walked through the text in three stages by focusing on The Preacher, The Sermon, and The Point.

THE PREACHER

It is easy for us to assume that Acts is a book about what God did a long time ago in the lives of "super Christians," but that is not the case. The same Peter who preaches at Pentecost is the man who denied even knowing Christ two months earlier and "wept bitterly" in the aftermath of his sin. Pastor Justin wanted us to see that God uses broken people. In grace, He uses the fallen, the failed, and the frightened. He uses those who are painfully acquainted with the truth that they deserve to be cast aside. He uses people just like you and me!

THE SERMON

Peter's sermon falls into three parts.

1. **What Is Happening (2:14-21):** Peter tells the crowd that what is happening at Pentecost is the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-32). The last days have dawned. The Spirit has been poured out. God's people are prophesying. The time of salvation has come. Salvation is promised to everyone who calls on the name of the Lord.
2. **What Has Happened (2:22-35):** Peter now sets out to show that Jesus is the Lord on whom we are to call for salvation. He shares the facts of the gospel—Christ's ministry, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension. He quotes from Psalm 16 to show how David prophesied that the Messiah would be raised from the dead. He quotes from Psalm 110 to show that Jesus is the exalted Messiah who sits at God's right hand in unrivaled power and authority.
3. **What It Means (2:36):** Finally, Peter confronts the crowd with the weight of gospel reality. *"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."* The Messiah has come, and you murdered him! God promises to destroy the Lord's enemies, and you have made yourself his enemy! Peter doesn't just leave the gospel as information, he presses it into the lives of everyone listening.

THE POINT

Pastor Justin ended by drawing out three points from Peter's sermon.

1. **Christ-focused:** Peter's sermon was profoundly Christ-focused. His message was all about Jesus—who he is, what he's done, what he means for us, what we must do about him. Jesus takes center stage in the gospel. It is about him.
2. **Historical fact:** Second, Peter's witness was rooted in historical fact. He wasn't sharing an idea or opinion, hearsay or speculation. He was stating facts. We must be confident that when we bear witness to Christ, we are talking about facts, certainties and ultimate reality. Jesus lived, he died, he rose, he is reigning, he will return, and every person will give an eternal account to him!
3. **Enduring Significance:** The gospel is not just factual and historical; it is personal and applicable to all people today. Verse 36 confronts us too. In our sin, we have made ourselves the Lord's enemy and that is terribly frightening news. Like the crowd at Pentecost, we too must ask in light of this truth, *"Brothers, what shall we do?"*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. Do you see Acts as a story about "super Christians?" Do you believe that God still works powerfully by His Spirit in the lives of broken people who are willing to be used? Explain.
3. Why is it important to see that the gospel is historical fact? Do you hesitate to press home the facts of the gospel like Peter did in verse 36? If so, why?