

Readings

Scripture

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

²² “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— ²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; ²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. ²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, ³⁵ until I make your enemies your footstool.’ ³⁶ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “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 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

- Acts 2:14-41 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Staying on Message
Acts 2:14-41

The Acts of the Apostles
Brad Anderson

As ambassadors for Jesus Christ, we are called to urge people to be reconciled with God... (2 Corinthians 5:20)

In Acts 2, we read the message that ambassadors are called to proclaim about Jesus Christ...

What does Peter explain to us about Jesus?

- Judgment (Acts 2:14-23)
- Resurrection (Acts 2:24-32)
- Ascension (Acts 2:33-35)

What does all this explanation about Jesus mean? (Acts 2:12, 36)

How are we to respond? (Acts 2:37-41)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the *Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- What is the largest crowd you have ever spoken to? How did you feel just before you spoke? How well did you do?
- What is your favorite quote from a famous person?
- Compare Peter and the other disciples in John 18:25-27 and John 20:19 with their actions here. What accounts for the greater difference?
- How do you see Luke 24:44-49 reflected in this sermon? Given the audience, why would Peter use so many quotes from the Old Testament?
- What is the point Peter wants the people to understand about current events? (Look at Acts 2:13, 17, 18 to help shape your answer.) Since the prophets used dramatic figurative language to indicate God was going to deal with his people in a new way, how do you understand Acts 2:19-21? What tells you Joel’s prophecy is coming true?
- How familiar were these people with the events of Jesus’ life? How might they be dealing with the rumors of the empty tomb? Given that, why does Peter emphasize the resurrection (Acts 2:24, 31, 32)?
- What are the implications of the resurrection and ascension for Jesus (Acts 2:24, 30-31, 33-36)? For the people? What would it mean for the people that Jesus is a spiritual king far greater than their greatest earthly king (Acts 2:37)?
- How would you use Peter’s answer (Acts 2:38-40) to explain to someone what it means to become a follower of Jesus Christ? What is required? What is promised?
- To repent and be baptized in Jesus’ name meant to turn away from all other loyalties and affirm allegiance to Jesus. In what ways does that call still present a challenge to you? How have you experienced the reality of God’s promises to those who answer that call?