

“Peter’s First Sermon: Part 1”

Acts 2:14-21

Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel

Intro: In Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost over 2,000 years ago there was a 'delivery room', so to speak, when the church was born.

- Acts 2:41 says "that day there were added about three-thousand souls."

Recap:

Acts 2:1 – “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.”

Matthew 16:18 – “Jesus says, ‘I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.’”

Acts 2:2-3 – “And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.”

Acts 2:4 – “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...”

Acts 1:14 – “These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

Acts 2:4-6 – “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. ⁵Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.”

Acts 2:7-8 – “They were amazed and astonished, saying, ‘Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?’”

Acts 2:11 – “Cretans and Arabs - we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.”

Acts 2:12-13 – “And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’ ¹³But others were mocking and saying, ‘They are full of sweet wine.’”

Luke 22:31-32 – “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³²but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

John 21:15 – “So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Tend My Lambs.’”

So here comes the first sermon:

1. We have been empowered to witness (vv.14-15)

Acts 2:14-15 – “But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: ‘Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day;’”

Acts 2:16 – “but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel:”

2. We are in the last days (vv.17-21)

Acts 2:17a – “AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says, ‘THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND.’”

Hebrews 1:1-2 – “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ²in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

1 John 2:18 – “Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour.”

a. We need to realize that the Spirit will be poured out on all people (v.17b-18a)

Acts 2:17b-18a – “THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MINDKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS.”

Acts 2:18a – “EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN”

b. We need to understand the times (vv.18b-19)

Acts 2:18b-20 – “I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE.”

Throughout history there have been other events that could be considered "Day of the Lord"

- God's judgment (Amos 5:18; Joel 2:2; Zephaniah 1:15; Is.13:8)
- God's blessing (Isaiah 35:1-10; Joel 3:18, 2:24, 2:17, 20, 2:29, 2:32)
- God's punishment of nations (Joel 3:4-13; Zephaniah 2:6-15, 2:8,10; Isaiah 13:19)
- God's punishment of Israel (Joel 1:15; Amos 5:18-20; Zephaniah 1:7; Ezekial 13:5)
- Events fulfilled (Amos 5:18, 20; Joel 1:15, 2:1, 2:11; Lamentations 2:21; Zephaniah 1:14-15, 18, 2:1; Isaiah 13)

c. We need to remember judgment is coming (v.20)

Acts 2:20 – “THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME.”

d. We need to call on the Lord (v.21)

Acts 2:21 – “AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”

Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. How has the Holy Spirit transformed you from being fearful to bold in your faith?
2. In what ways do you need to rely more on the Holy Spirit's power rather than your own?
3. Acts 2:21 says we call on the name of the Lord for salvation. How does it help you to know how to better share the gospel to people where you live, work, learn, and play?
4. How does understanding that we are living in the “last days” change your priorities?
5. What attitudes exist in our culture today regarding the topics of sin, repentance and forgiveness presented in this passage?
6. How can you more faithfully pray for spiritual revival within your community?