

Week of April 30, 2023

Acts 2:37-45

The Power of A New Start

37 When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each 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, as many as the Lord our God will call.” 40

With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, “Be saved from this corrupt generation!” 41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Questions:

- Can you describe how the act of forgiveness is a natural result of the Gospel and why is it such an important result?
- Have you thought about how the Holy Spirit is a result of the Gospel? How does it shape our understanding of the Gospel?
- How might becoming part of a new community be a natural result of responding to the Gospel, and what are some of the benefits of being part of this community?
- In what ways might responding to the Gospel give us a new purpose, and how can we discern what this purpose is in our lives?
- How might the new hope that results from responding to the Gospel change the way we view the world and our place in it?
- What does it mean to have a holistic response to the Gospel, in which all of these elements - forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, a new community, a new purpose, and a new hope - are present?
- What role does prayer play in cultivating an appropriate response to the Gospel, and how can we make prayer a more integral part of our response?
- What are some potential barriers that may prevent people from experiencing forgiveness, the Holy Spirit, a new community, a new purpose, and a new hope, and how can we help overcome these barriers?