

Acts 2:37-47  
CBBC  
8/3/2025

Introduction—What has God wrought? Numbers 23:23

I. 37-41—**The church's heart is the Gospel.**

Jesus, who is the Messiah and Lord, was crucified and risen again. There has been this incredible miracle where people started speaking in other languages. Peter interpreted it for them. This event is directly linked to the prophecies of the end times. This is God's Spirit, and it is directly linked to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who had been killed 2 months earlier. It had been prophesied by David that Jesus is Lord and that Jesus would rise from the dead. That is awesome.

Or is it? We are told in verse 37 that they were cut to the heart. They were scared. They were devastated by this. Why? Well, there are several reasons. First of all, they were devout Jews. They knew the Old Testament. They knew the penalty for rejecting God's revelation overall. They also knew what it meant to reject the Messiah. They had rejected God's deliverance.

We might think, "But they were not the ones who did it." This is two months later. They are Jews from other places; they know that they are not the ones responsible for all of this. But we have to understand the way that they looked at things. There was a sense of communal guilt. If you go back and read Ezra 9, Ezra finds out that the Jews were intermarrying with pagans. That is what got them into trouble in the first place. Unbelieving wives led their hearts astray. Ezra has this long prayer where he keeps using words like "we" and "us", saying "we sinned against you," and "we blew it." Even though he did none of those things, he understood that the nation as a whole was

responsible. So did these people. They knew that they deserved God's judgment, and they were sure that they had missed the boat. They owned the failure of their nation, and they knew that they deserved judgment.

(Application)—knowing the failure. Giving the Gospel means being able to explain what failure looks like, and the consequences of that failure.

We see the Gospel first laid out here, the good news that is in response to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He tells them all to repent and be baptized. This idea of repentance is to “make a conscious turn toward God and God's actions through Jesus.” Turn away from what compelled you to reject Christ and crucify Him, and turn to Him. Repenting is a change of mind. It is an understanding that it was never God's fault that we rejected Him; it is always ours. Every rejection of the Gospel today drinks from the same cup that drove the Jews to reject Jesus. We own our flaws. We don't say “but I wouldn't have if you had.” We don't give any excuses. We don't get passive-aggressive. We say, “We are the villain of the story.”

And we demonstrate that through baptism. We choose to publicly identify ourselves with Jesus Christ through baptism, which He commanded to all who follow him. “To agree to baptism is to affirm in a public act what the heart has already done to come into relationship with God.” Baptism will express “a personal visible turning to God.” Peter's command to baptize demonstrates an attitude that already exists, as shown in **I Peter 3:21-22.**

What will they receive? They receive forgiveness for their sins. They will be made right before God, not because they kept the Law but because they put their confidence

in God's Messiah. "Don't worry. Yes, you have sinned against God, but you will be forgiven for that."

They will also receive the gift of the Spirit. He is not talking specifically about tongues here, although there are some who will receive tongues, but He is talking to all of these Jews who wish to repent and turn to God. **Ezekiel 37 talks about the dry bones in verses 11-14.** He talks about the Spirit being given to them, and this connects not only with their resurrection but being able to dwell in the Promised Land with the Lord forever. Add to that the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31, where God promises to write the Law upon their heart, we see that the promise of the Spirit of the Lord is one of transformation. When one is baptized by the Spirit, they are born again; they are someone new. Their relationship with sin has changed according to Romans 6.

This is a promise to those who are hearing the message, those who are their descendants, and those who are afar off. Those who are afar off, I believe, are referencing Gentiles, but could also mean Jews who are not in Israel. This forgiveness and transformation, which is apart from the Law, has been promised to them. They don't need to worry if this is true or not. God had already promised this. And He promised this to those whom He had called. No matter where and when the Gospel is proclaimed, whether it is on the other side of the world or thousands of years in the future, whoever hears it is being called to accept it.

**The Gospel is a conversation, not a presentation.** We are told that this is part of an ongoing conversation. We are told he used many words, and he kept exhorting them, pleading with them to leave their generation behind. "Save yourself from them."

The Gospel is an ongoing conversation we have with people. People rotate in and out and talk and pray, and God works.

**The Gospel creates the church.** (vs. 41-47) Those who received, or believed what Peter was saying, and wanted to follow Christ were baptized. The two of them could not be separated. In fact, we are told that about 3000 people joined the 120. The Spirit powerfully worked. You had this amazing miracle, but it had to be interpreted according to Scripture. And it was, and people were aware of their need, and they came to Christ.

It created this community of people who had been forgiven, and they had been changed. They listened to the apostle's teaching. They were teaching what Jesus had taught them, which included the Old Testament and what Christ Himself said about how one should live as a follower of Christ. Fellowship here, I believe, talks about the interaction that occurred during the teaching, the breaking of bread was communion, and then praying together. Breaking of the bread, meals. Awe and wonder were overcoming everyone because you had this incredible combination of signs and teaching, and transformation.

The apostles were doing signs and wonders to confirm the truth of what they were saying. They were following in the steps of the prophets and of Christ Himself. They are bringing new revelations, so they have to confirm the truth of what they are saying. It proves to people that they can be saved from their rebellion and transformed by God.

The Gospel creates community. (vs. 44-45) The ones who believed were part of a community in which they had everything in common. They sold what they owned and

gave to everyone who had need. Some would argue this is socialism. It isn't. In fact, arguing whether it is socialism misses the point.

They were taking care of each other's needs. Remember that most of the believers were people who lived hand to mouth, day by day. They did not have savings accounts or land. They worked the day before for the food that they are eating today. So almost all of them had real needs of food, shelter, and clothing, just the basics. So you had a situation where people daily had needs among the believers, so other believers would see some possession or item to legitimately take care of someone else's need.

This makes total sense. They had been baptized with the Holy Spirit. Whether they understood it or not, they shared this bond that was closer than blood. They saw each other as sisters and brothers. They also knew that from Jesus' teachings, they were obligated to take care of each other. This is a no-brainer. This is what the baptism of the Holy Spirit creates.

We are not currently in a culture or economy where people live with these types of needs within our church. So we don't have the same need to do this. But the fruits of the Spirit create in us a desire to meet others' needs, and it is a willingness to be sacrificial. It may mean having a family move in with you as long as they have need of it. It may mean cashing in part of your 401 (k) to cover someone else's medical treatments. Maybe it means canceling a vacation you've planned for months to take care of someone. The Gospel creates a community that ministers and loves one another sacrificially.

Each day they would go to the temple, worshipping, and then they would gather together at each other's house and eat, which again, cost money and resources. They

did this generously. They did not do this instead of labor. They did this in addition to labor. This is what they did either after working or before, maybe even in the middle of the day. We are unsure. But they did so praising God, and everyone else thought it was awesome. This was such an incredible testimony.

God used this to add people to His church. He worked in their hearts with the Spirit and added them to His church.

What has God made? He made the church through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit which could take place because of the Gospel.

This is what the Baptism of the Holy Spirit created.

1. We need to hunger for this blueprint. We need to pray for it. We need to pursue it. (Word, prayer, fellowship, the Lord's Table, and service to one another) This is what leads to a great public testimony.

Do we desire to gather to worship?

Are we generous meeting the needs of other believers? Do we enjoy the presence of other Christians? Do we pray with one another?