

ACTS 2 PART II

Main Point: Jesus Is Lord Acts 2:14-47

36“*So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!*”
Acts 2:36

Digging Deeper

Repent vs ‘Accepting’ Christ:

America is one of the few countries that uses the phrase “Accept Christ”. (When did you accept Christ?) Every other culture that preaches the gospel says “Repent!” (When did you repent?) There is a distinct difference between the two phrases. One is simply adding something to one’s existing life while the other signifies a total change of life in a 180-degree turn.

The Context of ‘LORD’

As modern American believers, we don't truly have any mental shelf space for the true impact of the word ‘Lord’. Many of us simply believe that ‘Lord’ is one of the titles or names of Jesus but there is no true weight in a name. However, we don't pack meaning into a name the way ancient cultures did, we often put a name with a face and that's it. Yet, Webster says the definition of Lord is:

*- one having power and authority over others:
a: a ruler by hereditary right or preeminence to whom service and obedience are due*

Looking at Webster's definition we see that ‘lord’ has a pretty distinct implication for our lives. If Jesus is “Lord”, then he is, in fact, the SUPREME authority of our lives and thus we owe him total obedience and servitude. That said, is that how we see Jesus? Is He a friend or a King?

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever thought about the distinction between ‘Accept’ vs ‘Repent’? How do you display this in your life?
2. In a Roman-occupied culture, where it was illegal to say anyone but ceaser is lord, why does ‘Jesus is Lord’ pose a problem to early believers?
3. In American culture, how does giving something or someone else supreme authority over our lives present a deep challenge?
4. Peter's sermon in Acts 2 presents the authentic Gospel message. How does this differ from what we typically hear about the gospel?
5. At the end of the chapter (42-47) a community is formed. What are the distinctions of this early Church community, and how can we emulate that in our communities today?