

## Digging Deeper

We Are MACC: Where Friends Become Family – ACTS TO NOW

Acts 2

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Acts 2 is the story of the birth of the church! The MACC is the continuation of this story. That means you are part of the most amazing story in all of history. We will dive into this passage asking some important questions which hopefully will help us to be an effective part of God's story in our day.

### **Day One: A Day Like No Other – Read Acts 2:1 - 4**

John 14:26, 15:26, 27, 16:13

“When the day of Pentecost arrived” (Acts 2:1), the celebration of the day of firstfruits, coming fifty days after Passover God filled the place where they were sitting. Why were they there? Acts 1:1-7. You discover they were there in obedience to the risen Lord! They were not hiding in fear. They were not calculating their next move. They were waiting for the fulfillment of a promise.

The obedience to Christ was going to provide them with the power and ability to do what Jesus had told them to do (see John 15:26, 27). Luke makes it clear; they were all there, the entire room was filled and each one of them heard a mighty wind, saw tongues of fire which rested on each of them. None were missed! This was a day like no other Pentecost before. The expected celebration became an empowering moment for what was to become one of the greatest movements in all of history. The church will come into existence. Not a building but a movement of God.

Some questions we might want to ask ourselves in light of this brief moment of time. Are we obedient to what God asks of us? Are we willing to wait for what he promises? Do we comprehend that it is only in the power of the Holy Spirit that we can be the effective witnesses of the grace of Christ?

As you ponder and pray about these questions, ask God to clearly show his purpose for you and your family. (We will be talking about that on day five of this devotional.)

### **Day Two: An Audience Like No Other – Read Acts 2:5 – 13**

The Pentecost Feast has attracted devout Jews from all over Palestine and the Mediterranean world. Some commentators suggest there might have been as many as 200,000 people in Jerusalem for the celebration. We learn that many nationalities were there (see 2:9-11). They were hearing the disciples speaking and “telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God (2:11).

Notice the amazement and astonishment these devout men had. Not only were they hearing in their native tongue, but they were also hearing about the mighty works of God. These men were Galileans, often thought of as more common people (what we might call blue collar people). They were not the elite of the city, nor were they the religious leaders. They were people obedient to Christ, filled with the Spirit doing precisely what Jesus asked them to do. Read again what John says,<sup>26</sup> “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.”<sup>27</sup> And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.” John 15:26–27.

How does the example of the followers of Jesus impact you? Does their example correlate with your life? Do you notice they spoke of the mighty works of God. They did not talk about their feelings, opinions, or ideas. They spoke about the mighty works of God!

Will you watch for what God is doing in your world? And when you see God at work will you talk about what God is doing? Will you let him use you to proclaim his mighty works?

### **Day Three: A Promise Like No Other – Read Acts 2:14 – 36**

It is 9:00 in the morning and Peter ties the disciples telling the mighty works of God to an Old Testament prophet – Joel. “Not a chance. Not at nine in the morning. On feast days a Jew would not break fast until ten.” (Gangel, K. O. in Acts) The prophet foretold that God would pour out his Spirit on all flesh – men and women are all going to be eligible to be filled with the Spirit. Peter tells them they are seeing what God promised.

Then Peter reminds them of Jesus’ “mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst” (v.22). Peter clearly shows them Jesus is the rightful heir to the throne of David. Another promise fulfilled through Jesus. Remember we are told right from the beginning of this chapter that Jerusalem was filled with devout men (v. 5) Peter was preaching to people who knew the promises of God. They had trusted them for all of their lives. Peter is presenting Jesus as the fulfillment of those promises. He is leading his hearers toward the Gospel. The good news that Jesus came to provide salvation. What a compelling statement Peter makes, “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” (2:36)

Has God made a promise to you? Have you waited to see the promise kept? Do we have the confidence in God to trust God’s promise when we don’t see an answer for years? Remember you don’t have to remind God of his promises. “For he who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10:23

### **Day Four: A Question That Makes a Difference – Read Acts 2:37 – 41**

When they heard Peter’s message, conviction set in! These hearers had only one question “What shall we do?” Peter’s response was quick and precise – “Repent and be baptized.” Peter let’s them know that forgiveness of sins and the baptism of the Holy Spirit was theirs because God promised it! Pay attention to these words, “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.” (2:39)

Do you catch the impact of Peter’s words? You are included in the promise! All of God’s promises are yours. From the promise of Joel, the promise to David, the promise to these first century devout Jews, all the way to us as part of MACC. Maybe you didn’t think of the MACC be included in these promises, but we are.

What is your response to knowing that God had you in mind when he made the promises? He is “not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9) Let’s be very real here. Have you asked the question Peter’s hearers asked. “What shall I do?” The answer is still the same, “Repent and be baptized!” Have you done that, Has Christ forgiven you from your sin? Have you obeyed and been baptized? There will be no greater joy here at the MACC in seeing you follow Christ in obedience for salvation and baptism.

### **Day Five: From Community to Family – Read Acts 2:42 – 47**

We have seen a progression within this chapter in Acts. Devout people became convicted people who became saved and baptized people. They moved from individuals to community and ultimately to family!

Recently I read this: "Contemporary America simply isn't set up to promote mutuality, care, or common life. Rather, it is designed to maximize individual accomplishment as defined by professional and financial success. Such a system leaves precious little time or energy for forms of community that don't contribute to one's own professional life or, as one ages, the professional prospects of one's children. Workism reigns in America, and because of it, community in America, religious community included, is a math problem that doesn't add up." *The Atlantic: The Misunderstood Reason Millions of Americans Stopped Going to Church* by Jake Meador

Why is this family centric model so important? It was in the sharing of life on an intimate level that the message of the Gospel continued to grow! For the early believers every day saw new converts as people observed the care these early Christians had for one another. No one was left out; everyone's needs were met. When there was need, personal possessions were sacrificed to meet the need. No needs went unmet.

Let's evaluate ourselves. How quick are we to meet the needs of brothers and sisters in Christ? How often do we share meals together? How generous can we be? Can gladness fill our hearts as it did these early believers? How will this bring value to our witness within our own family? Could our sons and daughters be brought to the Gospel of Jesus through our willingness to move from "friends to family" in ways that emulate these early followers of Jesus? God still wants to add to his church daily those who are being saved!