

Acts 2:22-41: Being A Witness.

1. (22-36) Peter Witnesses.

Ephesians 4:8 - Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, **And gave gifts to men.**"

Peter refers to what these people already knew about Jesus; they already knew of His life and miraculous works.

John 5:32-33 – There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. You sent **John**, and he has borne witness to the truth; **36** – But I have a greater witness than John's; for **the works** which the Father has given Me to finish, the very works that I do – bear witness of me...**37** – And the **Father** Himself who sent Me, has testified of Me...**39** – You search the **scriptures** for in them you think you have eternal life, and these are they which testify of Me.

Peter declares that Jesus' death was fore-planned by God; that those who rejected Him, demanding His execution were responsible for His death. However, that it was impossible for Jesus to remain a victim of the sin and hatred of man bound by death, He would certainly triumph over it.

Psalm 16:8-11 - I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

We see Peter empowered to be a witness by preaching and interpreting O.T scriptures for his listeners; that the Psalm couldn't be speaking of its human author, David, but a reference to the resurrection of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Peter confirms that what is going on is the work of the Holy Spirit sent upon His church.

This is the Gospel in summary as Peter witnesses basing on God's word; our sins brought, crucified and buried Jesus, He rose from the dead, ascended and exalted - He reigns.

2. (37-41) The People Respond.

John 16:8 - "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Peter made no alter call, he just declared the truth and the listeners responded by asking what to do. *Cut to the heart* is a good way of describing the persuasion of the Holy Spirit. They knew that they were responsible for the death and the crucifixion of Jesus 50 days earlier (as each of us are), and that they had to do something about it.

Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

The first thing Peter told them to do is *repent*, not just to feel sorry, but it means to change one's mind and actions – forsaking all idols and embracing Jesus as Lord.

Matthew 3:2 - "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Matthew 4:17 - *From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

"Repent" is good news for those who have realized their sinfulness; it is a word of great hope for sinners; offering a solution to the sin problem.

A man was painting his house. He only bought 5 gallons of paint. He knew he couldn't finish the job with 5 gallons, so he started to thin it with water. He thinned and thinned and finally the job was done. Then a big black cloud showed up over the house. It rained and rained and of course washed all the paint off the house.

Then he heard voice saying. "Repaint and thin no more."

The second thing Peter says they must do is be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, as an expression of their belief and complete trust in Him.

Peter assured them that the Holy Spirit is not just for a few, but here for everyone and anyone who wants to be filled, empowered and gifted; Jews and gentiles, new and far, children and parents alike.

John 3:16 – *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Peter pleaded with them to be saved or delivered from the perversity or sinfulness of their generation.

2 Corinthians 5:20 – *Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God was pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*