

Sermon Summary 09/13/2015

Acts 2:14-41 by Eric Bobbitt

In Short: The Spirit empowers Peter (and us!) to be a witness to the Jews as he tells them to “repent and be baptized.”

Sunday’s Outline

I. Introduction – Luke highlights the importance of the spoken word as he records Peter’s speech to the Jews. This is 1 of 18 speeches in the book, which combine to make up 20% of the written words in Acts. Like Peter, followers of Christ are called to speak and proclaim the message that Jesus has come, died, resurrected, and ascended.

A. Explaining the outpouring of the Spirit (2:14-21)

1. Something drastic has happened (i.e. the Spirit!) in the 40 days between Peter’s denial of Jesus at his trial and Peter standing up to speak to the Jews with clarity and boldness.
2. God’s plan is clear: Jesus has come, died, been resurrected, ascended, and has sent the Spirit to empower the Church to carry out His mission.

B. Proclamation of the message (2:22-36)

1. The Spirit of God has been poured out (Joel 2:28-32)
2. The message of these evangelistic speeches is similar: you killed Him, God raised Him, we saw Him (see Acts 2, 3, 4, and 5 for other speeches). Now Jesus reigns on high as Lord of all (Ps 110).

C. The call to repentance and promise of blessing (2:37-41)

1. Cut to the heart and ask, “What must we do?” Repent and believe.
2. The Spirit is mighty at work: 3,000 souls added!

II. Conclusion – We should long to tell others this message of good news for sinners.

Quotations

“Reality is not neat, not obvious, and not what you expect.” -C.S. Lewis

Help for Understanding & Application

1) In light of the C.S. Lewis quote above, how do the events of Acts 1-2 encourage your faith in God and your commitment to His mission?

2) What role does community play in our call to carry out the mission God has called us to, namely to proclaim the good news of the gospel to the ends of the earth? Hint: see verse 2:14a.

3) How do you explain the boldness Peter exemplifies in 2:22-36, knowing that he is speaking publicly to the same people who both shouted for Jesus’ execution and manipulated the Roman government into the murder of an innocent man (Jesus)?

4) There is a saying that goes, “Preach the gospel; if necessary, use words.” How do you think Luke would respond to this saying in light of the number of evangelistic speeches included in Acts? What is the danger in letting our actions speak for themselves instead of using both our actions AND our words?

5) Do you *long* to tell someone about Christ?