

## **Sermon Outline**

Recap - Spirit had come down, signs shown (like wind, like fire, languages spoken)

### **1. The Crowd Came Together (2:5-13)**

\*The crowd was from many places - Weeks 1 of 3 pilgrim feasts (Lev. and Ex. passage)

- 15 different geographic areas listed
  - Parthians - Iran
  - Medes - Parthia
  - Elamites - SW Iran
  - Mesopotamia - Iraq
  - Judea - David's Empire
  - Cappadocia/Pontus/Asia/Phrygia/Pamphylia (All Asia Minor - modern Turkey)
  - Libya - North coast of Africa
  - Rome - Italy (Europe)
  - Cretans - island of Crete
  - Arabians - south of Damascus to Red Sea
- both Jews and Gentiles (v. 11, "proselytes")
- list of people from all over the known world

\*The crowd came together "at this sound".

- Some believe it is was the sound "like a mighty rushing wind" (v. 2)
- Probably it was the sound of believers' voices speaking in different languages (v. 6 "at this sound", v. 8 "native language", v. 11 "our own tongues")
- Interesting to think of the things we do in the flesh to bring together a crowd -
  - "A fire and a dust cloud look the same from a distance." (Sewell). One falls from heaven, the other is kicked up from earth.
  - "You never have to advertise a fire." (Ravenhill)

\*The crowd was enabled to hear.

- heard w/ physical ears (hearing miracle!) - heart language! (they were coming together)
- heard w/ spiritual ears - there were hearing the "mighty works of God" - God was bringing them together! God, by the Spirit working through the believers, was drawing!

\*The crowd responded differently.

- Some were amazed and seeking. (v. 6, 7, 12) - "perplexed" - "to be at a loss"
- Some were cynical and mocking. (v. 13) - "mocked" - "to make fun of"
- All heard but not all believed.
  - Robert Stein, NAC Commentary on Luke: "Here for the first time appears a motif that runs throughout Luke-Acts — in itself, without the element of personal faith and experience, even the most profound aspects of the good news are not self-confirming but can lead to skepticism and even rejection."

## 2. Peter Stood to Explain (2:14-16)

\*Peter stood with the other apostles as different people! (v. 14, “standing with”)

These men had run in every direction in cowardice and fear before the Jews and authorities. Now they stand together. The Spirit brought unity and power upon them!  
Different Peter, different apostles, different people!

\*Peter stood to proclaim a supernatural explanation!. - first fulfillment of Acts 1:8 - “men”

- No natural explanation (v. 15)

- Prophetic fulfillment of Joel 2:28-32

## 3. The Explanation of Pentecost (2:17-21)

\*God had poured out His Spirit, fulfilling prophecy. (v. 17)

\*His Spirit is available to all; all are invited to know God! - “all flesh” (v. 17) no matter gender or age (v. 17) or status (v. 18)

\*Anyone can hear from God and be used by God. (v. 17, visions/dreams/prophesy/proclaim)

\*Everyone who calls on Him will be saved from judgment. (19-21)

\*God saves His people to send them to the world. - many of these people left Jerusalem!

## **Small Group Questions**

1. What spoke to you in the Bible passage and sermon?
2. Discuss the hearing miracle of Pentecost, how each person was hearing in their heart language. What was the crowd hearing the believers declare?
3. What is the significance of the 15 different groups? How was this a picture of God’s future work?
4. What explanation did Peter give for what was happening? How does this message play into the mission of the book from Acts 1:8? What are today’s ramifications for Peter’s explanation?
5. Discuss the encouragement we receive that anyone and everyone can know God, hear from God, and be used by God.
6. Leaders, ask your groups how they have/are responding to the message of the Gospel. Hearing and believing? Or hearing and mocking?