

Sermon Outline

Recap - Many in the crowd were convicted and cut to the heart because:

- *They heard who Jesus is - Lord and Messiah!
- *They realized what they had done to Him - They crucified Him! They were His enemies!
- *They were a religious and devout crowd - yet rebelling, crucifying, under judgment
- *Notice there was conviction of sin before there was instruction in how to respond. There must be bad news before there can be good news! We tell people how before they understand why!
- *Peter did not preach heaven, nor happiness, nor prosperity, nor blessing, BUT CHRIST!
- *The preaching of Christ is sufficient to bring conviction and bring salvation!

1. Peter did not tell the crowd:

- *To be a better person (moral improvement)
- *To go to religious services (church attendance)
- *To acknowledge God's existence (generic religion)
- *To repeat a prayer (religious ritual)

2. Peter commanded the crowd to repent. (Acts 2:38)

- *Greek "metanoeo" - "to change the mind"
- *The heart is convicted and mind is convinced to change.
 - *Convicted and convinced to turn from something (sin)
 - *Convicted and convinced to turn to something (Someone, that being God)
 - *Repentance is turning from sin and turning to God by faith in Jesus Christ.
- *Repentance is commanded by God. (Mark 1:14-15, 6:12, Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30-31, 20:21)
- *Repentance is a gift from God. (Acts 5:31, 11:18, 2 Tim. 2:25)
- *Repentance is necessary for someone to be saved.
 - *Not a work but the demanded response - "Lay down your rebellion"
(judge/criminal, doctor/patient)

3. Peter commanded the crowd to publicly identify with Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38)

- *The phrase "be baptized" like "Repent" in this verse is a command.
- *Personal command - "be baptized" is singular - every person repenting should be baptized!
- *Command of surrender - (Passive voice - submit!) - Jews thought baptism only for Gentiles
- *What is baptism?
 - *Public confession of faith in Christ
 - *Public picture of genuine conversion - die to sin, buried, raised to life with Christ
 - *Picture of what Jesus has done for me
 - *Picture of what the Spirit has done in me
 - *Public identification with Christ and His people

*Baptism does not save; we do not want to de-emphasize baptism but to distinguish and clarify it in its proper place. Baptism has no saving merit and does not grant any type of saving grace of itself. It is the first act of obedience.

*How do we know baptism does not save? (Acts 2:38 is not a formula!)

*Not mentioned as a condition elsewhere in Acts

(3:19, 4:33, 5:31-32, 8:4-5, 16:31, 20:21, 26:20). (Note: Acts 22:16 - emphasis is on calling on His name - we interpret this verse in light of the others.)

*Baptism happens after belief. (8:12, 18:8)

*Baptism does not bring the Spirit. (8:14-16, 10:44-48)

*Baptism is distinguished from the Gospel. (1 Cor. 1:17 and Gal. 1)

* The “for” in Acts 2:38 is better understood as “because” or “as a result of”.

4. Peter called the crowd to believe God’s promises. (Acts 2:38-40)

*To receive forgiveness of sins - not just penalty but power and presence as well! “soteria”

*To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

*To respond to God’s call for salvation in Jesus Christ (promise for all/condition for all)

*There is a human side for responsibility and a sovereign side for calling

*General call - all are invited!

*Specific call - “you are invited!”

*There must be a calling; we would never see Him or come to Him on our own (Romans 3); the Gospel proclamation however is to all and does not in any way annul our responsibility to proclaim. So we proclaim to everyone. And God calls and draws them to salvation.

5. The crowd responded in public obedience to the message. (Acts 2:41)

*Some did receive the word; others did not.

*Those who received the word completely obeyed.

*Those who received the word were added to the church.

*HOW HAVE YOU RESPONDED? ARE YOU BEING CALLED?
HAVE YOU REPENTED AND BELIEVED?

Small Group Questions

Note: Because small groups did not meet during Thanksgiving week, feel free to take a few minutes to discuss Pastor Justin’s message from 11/21 on The Session of Christ from Acts 2:33-37.

1. What spoke to you in the Bible passage and sermon?
2. Peter called the crowd to repent and believe after they were cut to the heart. Why is conviction so necessary in preceding a response to the Gospel? What are some of the misconceptions in our culture regarding the Gospel and our response?

3. What is repentance? Why is it the necessary response to the message of the Gospel? What is the relationship of repentance and faith in responding to the Gospel?
4. What is baptism? Why does Peter call them to be baptized? Does baptism save? Why or why not?
5. Acts 2:1-41 happened in one day. Discuss the overall picture of the day in all that God did.