

**Acts #4 (5.17.20) #20037**

**Gospel Proclamation**

**Acts 2:14-41**

- I. Is God at work in the world? Absolutely! And Acts chapter 2 explains what He is doing!
- II. **The Event itself: Pentecost. Incredibly important milestone/turning point in God's plan to redeem his fallen creation. 2:1-13**
- A. Planned from all eternity and revealed in the Old Covenant.
1. Eph.1:3-11. Review of last week
- B. First experienced along with three phenomena.
1. The appearance of fire
  2. The sound of wind
  3. The ability to speak various (understandable) languages.
- III. **Followed by the Crucial Proclamation. Peter's message:**
- A. **This is The Father's promise. 14-21. Joel 2:28-32**
1. The coming of the Spirit, long promised by God.
    - a) The beginning of eternal life, God's life indwelling.
    - b) Note: an age which begins with the Spirit and ends with judgment.
- B. **Based on the Son's Resurrection. 22-32. Psalm 16:8-11**
1. Jesus of Nazareth. His life, death/burial, resurrection.
    - a) Attested by God with mighty works, wonders and signs (Jn.21:25)
    - b) Delivered up according to God's definite plan and foreknowledge.
    - c) Crucified by you through the Romans (Lawless men)
  2. God raised him up!
    - a) Loosing the pangs of death, because it could not hold him.
    - b) Because he had no sin. Sin is what kills (1 Cor.15:55-56)
  3. This couldn't have been David himself, but was a prophecy of Messiah. Ps.16:8-11
    - a) Verse 30 is a direct quote of **Ps.132:11**
    - b) God had sworn to put one of David's sons on the throne of the Kingdom.
- C. **Resulting in the Lordship of Jesus over everything. 33-36. Psalm 110:1**
1. Jesus is Lord and Messiah. Exalted to the right hand of God
  2. As Messiah, he sits on David's throne. King in God's kingdom.
- D. **So, Wake Up and Respond to the Gospel. 37-41.**
1. The Spirit, through the Word, pierces the hearts. Jn. 16:1-11
  2. The result is conversion:
    - a) Personal, Repentant Faith: Turn around.
      - (1) Repent. Turn your mind around about Jesus and sin.
      - (2) Repentance and Faith are interchangeable terms, two sides of the same coin. (Mk.1:15)
    - b) Immediate, faithful Water Baptism as evidence of trusting Christ.
      - (1) The baptism is "the sinner's prayer" of the New Testament.
    - c) Instant, permanent Regeneration: You will be born again. Jn.3:3; Titus 3:4-7
      - (1) The promise (of the Spirit, v. 33) is for all those the Lord calls.
  3. *Coming to Christ is the Spirit's work, drawing, washing, filling.*
- E. **And they do! The Church is born! 41**
1. Jesus said he would create a new faith community (Matt.16) and it starts right here.
  2. Three thousand respond in one day and are baptized into the Body of Christ.

#### IV. Thoughts we should think:

##### A. God's plan is happening, even when it mystifies us. Eph.1:11

1. The crowd was mystified, but all four of these OT passages remind us that God has always planned to save his people, and his material world.
  - a) (Joel 2:28-32a; Ps.16:8-11; Ps 132:11; Ps.110:1)
2. The crowd had no idea that God was at work in their midst, moving his plan forward, until they heard the gospel.

##### B. God's wisdom is in charge, even amid evil. 23; Acts 4:24-28; Gen.45:8; 50:20

1. If God uses the worst crime and tragedy in human history to do something good, there is nothing that he cannot redeem.
  - a) Note that God uses human evil to accomplish something good. This is a mystery, but we find it all through the Bible.
2. *The question is, do we want to be a part of the problem or a part of the solution—the gospel?*

##### C. God's Grace is amazing, even when our sin is abysmal. Rom.5:19-21

1. *What sin is worse than killing the innocent Son of God...?*
  - a) Certainly not the sin you think you have committed.
2. The Gospel starts with the worst news ever.
  - a) Humanity has killed God's Son.
3. But it culminates the Best New Ever. Rom.5:8-11
  - a) Complete forgiveness with a physical symbol, Baptism.
  - b) New, Divine Resurrection life poured into us forever, by sheer Grace.
4. *So, there is nothing to do but admit we are abysmally lost and helpless and throw ourselves on the eternal mercy of God in Christ.*

##### D. Because Jesus the Christ and Lord has lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died, all on our behalf so that we can have His destiny.