

Repent, be Baptized and Receive the Holy Spirit

Introduction

- Continuing series,
- Last week: Pentecost and Spirit being poured out

Tension: Jesus lived (a perfect life), died (for everyone's sin), rose from the grave (defeated death), ascended to Heaven (where he intercedes for us at the Father's right hand), so what's next? Repent (and believe), be baptized (put your stake in the ground), and receive the Holy Spirit (in order that the mighty works of God will be displayed).

Acts 2:22

- From Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers: Miracles and wonders and signs. The words are three synonyms, expressing different aspects of the same facts, rather than a classification of phenomena.
 - Miracles: The leading thought, in the first word, is the **power** displayed in the act;
 - Wonders: in the second, the marvel of it as a portent:
 - Doesn't normally happen
 - Supernatural
 - Signs: in the third, its character as a token or note of something beyond itself
 - Points to something
 - --Better translation - all together: '**mighty works . . .**'
- Purpose of 'mighty works'? So that one may believe in Jesus and in the One who sent Him

Acts 2:23-24

- From the foundations of the earth, God's plan, why? He desires you; you were on His heart;
- **Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.**
 - Death has no power for Jesus defeated death
 - Impossible for death to keep a hold on Him; Folded napkin - Jesus never going to taste death again
 - **Colossians 2:12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.**

Acts 2:25-35

- Somewhat unexciting verses - David's prophecy about Jesus, his descendant will be on the throne; his body will not decay - a lot of OT prophecy about Jesus
- More interesting that Peter able to recall those words;
 - **Mark 13:11 - don't worry about what will say, say whatever you are given you at the time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit**

Acts 2:36

- **Previously always focused and put the emphasis on what the people had done {Jesus, whom YOU crucified; YOU, with the help of wicked men, PUT HIM TO DEATH BY NAILING HIM TO THE CROSS}, like Peter was sticking it to them**
- Now, focus on what God has done:
 - God was the author of the miracles, signs and wonders

- God had the plan to bring you into relationship with Him
- God raised Jesus from the dead; God freed Jesus from his agony
- The Father poured out the Holy Spirit on the people
 - Spirit continues to be poured out / available
- God made Jesus Lord and Messiah
- These are MIGHTY WORKS OF A LOVING GOD! God be glorified!

Acts 2:37

- Cut to the heart: Gk: pierced, pricked, 'agitated vehemently'
 - Not used any other time in the New Testament
 - 3000 people cut to the heart; convinced of their need for 'more'
 - Holy Spirit working overtime! **Atmosphere** saturated with the presence of the Lord; people desperate to respond
 - Like Forest Fire in NC and ash in Jackson County
 - Like Revival / Awakening atmosphere where people being converted 2 blocks from the meeting!
 - A "+1" experience
 - Other times Peter is saying the same things and people aren't saved, he's gets thrown in prison

Acts 2:38-39

- Answer to their desperation, repent, be baptized, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Led to share: Don't have to be baptized to be saved, but is often the next step
- Believe there are spiritual benefits to being baptized
 - Outward sign of an internal work or inward grace
 - Something we do that demonstrates a heart change
 - Act of Obedience - Jesus tells us to and gave it by example
 - Symbol of cleansing of sin, original and actual
 - An impartation of the Holy Spirit to a greater degree
 - Mystery / God's grace at work - come to know and experience reality of being raised with Christ and in Christ
 - Not as much about God, it's about us affirming what we believe through baptism [us taking a step in God's direction; one of the few faith milestone; 'stake in the ground' moment]
 - Witness
 - 'Putting your money where your mouth is' - proof

Acts 2:40-41

- Pleaded: "Earnestly testified" - he really wanted them to be saved
 - God is in Peter, and when God is in you, you want the best for people, want them to be saved
 - He loved them
 - Our Purpose...desire people's best, and want people to be in a saving relationship with God through Christ Jesus and the Spirit

We are pleading with you to be saved

Response