

ONE message. people. mission.



Change We Can Believe In

Acts 2:1-41

Main Idea

God's Kingdom is filled with all peoples making a name for God not themselves.

Overview

- **Context & Overview**
 - Jesus teaches the disciples about the Kingdom of God for 40 days after his resurrection (1:3)
 - After Jesus teaches the disciples about this Kingdom he told them to stay in Jerusalem until they received power from the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5), and then they will be his witnesses telling the entire world about the Kingdom of God (v. 8).
 - As chapter two opens Jesus' promise is suddenly and drastically fulfilled – the disciples receive the Spirit.
 - All this takes place on Pentecost – which literally means “fiftieth,” referring to the 50th day after Jewish Passover – a time when Jerusalem was swarming with Jews from all over the world (cf. Dt. 16:10, 16)
- **Citizens in the Kingdom**
 - Three things accompany the filling of the Spirit – sound, sight speech
 - Sound – wind; denotes the presence of God's Spirit (cf. John 3:5-8)
 - Sight – fire; symbolizes God's presence (cf. Ex. 3, 19)
 - Speech – real recognizable languages to tell “mighty works of God”
 - Pentecost is a drastic reversal of Babel – instead of people trying to make name for themselves they are making a name for God
 - Joel (2:28-32) prophesized that God would pour out his Spirit on all flesh – that's exactly what we begin to see happening at Pentecost
 - The citizens in God's kingdom are a diverse group of people making a name for God not themselves
- **Lord of the Kingdom**
 - In verses 22-36 Peter explains Jesus is Lord of the Kingdom
 - Jesus is endorsed as the Lord of the Kingdom because of his: unique life, substitutionary death, victorious resurrection, and glorious exaltation
 - At every point in the way, God endorsed Jesus as Lord not just Peter (i.e. God attested, God planned, God raised, God exalted)
 - So Peter's claim is exclusive just like every religious claim, and he's saying zeal for “God” is actually anti-God if that zeal is not centered on Jesus.
- **Entrance into the Kingdom**

- The Jews realize they rejected the one God honored, and as verse 37 says, “they were cut to the heart” and asked Peter, “What shall we do?”
 - The first thing we see is that the Jews here realized that they were responsible for the death of Christ (cf. 24, 32)
 - After they realize they crucified Jesus, they must repent and be baptized (publically express faith in Jesus)
 - Repentance and Faith brings two gifts:
 - Objective – Forgiveness of sins
 - Subjective – Gift of the Holy Spirit (not gifts, but the gift of the Spirit himself)
 - Promise of these gifts is immediate, generational, universal
- **Telling Others About the Kingdom**
 - Back in the book of Mark Peter was cowardly quivering before a little slave girl denying that he knew Jesus, now he is boldly standing before thousands proclaiming the Lordship Jesus – this is the power of change that the Spirit brings
 - The natural result of being Spirit-filled is the boldly testify for Jesus and tell others about his kingdom

Questions

Discussion Starter: Do most people want to change something in their lives? Are they usually successful long-term? Why or why not?

Transition: Here in Acts 2 we see Peter drastically changed for good – lets explore why.

1. Read Mark 14:66-72. Compare this to Peter’s actions in Acts 2. What’s different in Peter’s actions? What’s his motivation/power to change? How are we like Peter both before and after Pentecost?
2. Read Genesis 11:1-9. Compare this to Pentecost. What’s different? Specifically, how do we often live like the men and women of the Tower of Babel?
3. Read Acts 2:14-21. What is significant about God pouring out his Spirit on all flesh? What does this tell us about the heart of God? How can the church align their heart with God to see all peoples call upon the Lord?
4. In verses 22-36 how does Peter show that God himself endorses Jesus as the Lord? Why is it important to see that God endorses Jesus as Lord?
5. Peter exclusively claims that Jesus alone is the way unto salvation...is this an arrogant statement? Why or why not?
6. Read 36-39. What does Peter say these people must do if they want to enter the Kingdom of God?
7. What does Peter do in his proclamation of the Gospel? What does he not do? How does this inform the way we should tell others about Jesus?
8. What are some practical things we can do to be Spirit-filled and ready to share the gospel?

Accountability Question: How are you doing in telling others about the Kingdom of God?