



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of October 6, 2024

Acts 2:14-36

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. **15** For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. **16** But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: **17** “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; **18** even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. **19** And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; **20** the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. **21** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’ **22** “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— **23** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. **24** God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. **25** For David says concerning him, “‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; **26** therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. **27** For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. **28** You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ **29** “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. **30** Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, **31** he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. **32** This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. **33** Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. **34** For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, “‘The Lord said to my Lord, “‘Sit at my right hand, **35** until I make your enemies your footstool.’” **36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

1. When Peter stands to deliver his first sermon, he preaches from 3 texts of Scripture (Joel 2:28-32, Psalm 16:8-11, and Psalm 110:1). We later learn that as a result of his sermon, about 3,000 people became Christians. Why do you think Peter’s sermon was so powerful? What do you think makes a sermon powerful and life changing?
2. When Peter references Joel’s prophecy to explain the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon believers, he is declaring that humanity has entered the “last days” and that a time of final judgment is coming. What do

the “last days” mean to you? Do you believe we are living in the “last days” and if so, how does this impact the way you live? How *should* this impact the way you live?

3. Joel’s prophecy also speaks of great hope: *“it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”*. If we believe that we are in the last days as evidenced by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon ALL believers, and if we also believe that everyone who calls upon the Lord shall be saved, then how should this impact our evangelism? Why do you think so few Christians proclaim their faith with a sense of urgency? What, if anything, needs to change? Why should it change? How can this change come about?
4. Peter then preaches about Jesus Christ; His life, death and resurrection and he again uses Scripture (Psalm 16:8-11) to make His point that death could not hold Jesus. Why do you think it was necessary for Peter to point out to the Jews, *“this Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.”*? In other words, why is the resurrection critical when sharing the gospel? Do you agree that every sermon must be about Jesus? Why or why not?
5. Peter ends his sermon by pointing a finger at his listeners accusing them of crucifying their Lord and Messiah. Do you think Peter was being too harsh? Why is it necessary to point out a person’s sins when sharing the gospel? Conversely, why is it detrimental to gloss over sin? As sinful people ourselves, aren’t we being hypocritical?