

Scripture Text

Acts 2:22-47

Context

Acts 1 records Christ's instructions to the disciples and His ascension. In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon the disciples in accordance with Christ's promise. This dramatic outpouring causes bystanders to be amazed and astonished, wondering what was happening. In this context, Peter stands up to proclaim the Gospel to those listening.

Observation and Meaning

- Given that the context of Peter's sermon was the outpouring of the Spirit, how much time does Peter spend explaining that as opposed to teaching the crowd about Jesus?
- How does the crowd respond to Peter, and what does he then tell them to do in response to the Gospel?
- What happened to those who were baptized? What were they 'added' into?
- What four things did the early church devote themselves to?
- What was the fruit of the gospel in this new multi-ethnic community?
- How do we see the mission of the gospel continuing to advance through the disciples in the book of Acts?

Big Idea

The Gospel creates the people of God, who live together in Christ centered community and advance God's mission through their lives.

Connecting to the Bible's storyline

The church is the gathered people of God who have been made new in Christ and who represent Him to the world.

Sermon Outline

1. A Gospel created community (v22-47)
2. A Gospel focused community (v42)
3. A Gospel fruit bearing community (v43-46)
4. A Gospel advancing people (v47)

Application

- How does the Gospel help you see what every person in the local church has in common, and hence break down barriers between different people?
- Which of the four things that the believers were devoted to are you weakest at, and how is God calling you to be part of this local church?
- How does the description of biblical community in Acts 2 challenge your notion of community?
- How is God calling you to change some of the practices of your life so that you become a meaningful part of the church community?
- People were added to the church daily, through the lives of the believer. How is God calling you to advance the Gospel on a daily basis?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?

What is the situation of the author and of the readers?

Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?

Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.