



Approaching God

Read this portion of Psalm 4 and begin with an opening prayer

Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer...Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD will hear when I call to him (Psalm 4:1,3)

The Psalms of David show a man who knew times of great distress. His instinct in those time became invocational prayer and to trust that God would hear and answer. How can we develop that habit as well? Start this morning by calling out to God for help wherever you need it today.

Acts 2:14-36

Passage Introduction:

The coming of the Holy Spirit in the events of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13) sets the stage for Peter's sermon in verses 14-36. At this point, it's important to note that this sermon marks the beginning of the church's witness in fulfillment of the commission given to the apostles in 1:8. With this sermon, Peter launches the Christian church's testimony to world, which states that Jesus Christ is the crucified and resurrected Lord. The message will start here in Jerusalem, but, as the book of Acts makes clear, it will continue to spread to the rest of the world.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words.

My Notes:

Acts 2:14-36 - 14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. **15** These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! **16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. **18** Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. **19** I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. **20** The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. **21** And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

My Notes:

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. **23** This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. **24** But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. **25** David said about him:

*“I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. **26** Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, **27** because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. **28** You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.”*

29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. **30** But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. **31** Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. **32** God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. **33** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. **34** For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “ ‘*The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand **35** until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”*’ ” **36** “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

Questions for Reflection & Meditation

- The apostles waited to begin their ministry until after they had been filled with the Holy Spirit... and then they **immediately** began it. Are you someone who tends to seek to minister in your own strength rather than the Spirit’s, or tends not to minister at all because you forget you have the Spirit? In what specific ways or areas do you need to grow?

- What are some features of Peter’s gospel presentation here that you could use to communicate to a non-believer in your life the truth about Jesus and the response that it demands?

Key Takeaway:

Choose the verse or truth that is most striking and/or helpful to you today. Paraphrase the thought or verse in your own words.

Close in Prayer:

One commentator writes that “Pentecost demonstrates that God always keeps his promises.” In what ways do you need to remember this truth today. Talk to Jesus about that as you finish up your time in the word today.

“In summary, Peter weaves “apologetics” (evidence) into his gospel presentation by focusing on two historical events — Christ’s death and resurrection. And by appealing to two witnesses — the prophets (Biblical evidence) and the apostles (historical evidence). As we can see, Peter’s gospel presentation is simply showing people the life and work of Christ. What kind of impact does this presentation have on the crowd? We are told that they were “cut to the heart”.”

Tim Keller - Commentary on Acts