



Discussion Notes

Peter's Address, Part 1 • Acts 2:14–41

November 2, 2025 • Kirsten Anonby

In Acts 2:14–41, Peter answers the question, “What does this mean?” that the people ask who witness the signs of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (wind, fire, many languages). He does this by revealing that Jesus is the Messiah who was raised from the dead, and who has now poured his Holy Spirit on all people.

Walk through the Sermon:

- They are seeing the fulfillment of the promise in Joel 2:28–32: that in the last days the Holy Spirit will be poured out on all people (men, women, young, old).
- Peter reframes the Jesus narrative. They likely all knew about Jesus, but they didn't know:
 - That the arrest and death of Jesus only happened because it was a part of God's deliberate plan.
 - That they were guilty for Jesus' death.
 - That Jesus had risen from the dead.
 - i. Peter refers to prophetic promises expressed through the Psalms.
 - ii. The people didn't think the Messiah would be crucified and raised to life.
 - iii. These prophetic promises show Jesus fulfilling prophecy BECAUSE of His death and resurrection.
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is because of Jesus' exaltation.

How The Spirit is at Work:

- The impact: 3,000 believe and are baptized.
- This shows us the new normal of the Spirit working in and through Jesus' followers, empowering their ministry and the message.
- The blueprint of how the Spirit works:
 - The miraculous work of the Spirit validates Jesus' followers and the message.
 - Peter is empowered by the Spirit — speaks with a clarity and boldness that is not his own.
 - The message is all about Jesus.
 - The Spirit is at work on the heart of every listener in a new way.
- We are meant to be a part of this blueprint today.

The radical heart-change of the people:

- They move from being bewildered and perplexed to being “cut to the heart.”
- Their question is no longer “What does this mean?” It’s “What shall we do?”
- They are filled with grief and remorse.
- The people did not necessarily know if there was anything they could do. For all they knew, they had simply missed their chance to follow Jesus.
- Peter invites them to repent — to turn. This is a good word, a hopeful word.
- They are not just invited to repent, they are also invited to receive.
- There are 12 apostles for a reason. This echoes the 12 tribes of Israel — the church is the new Israel, the new people of God.
- Like the story of the Prodigal Son — they are wanting to come home and don’t know if they will be received. But they are invited home, and offered gifts.

Discussion Questions:

- Read Acts 2:14–41. What seems important to you about this passage? What questions do you have?
- What does Peter tell the people about Jesus?
- This sermon calls the people to repent, to turn away from this “wicked generation” and to give their lives to Jesus. What do you think it means to repent? In what ways is it a difficult word, and in what ways is it a hopeful word?
- Have you ever had the experience of feeling outside of God’s people? What was that like? How is this sermon good news for people who feel like they’re on the outside?
- Kirsten talked about the blueprint for how the Spirit works. How do you see the Spirit at work in this passage, and how do you see that pattern in other places in the book of Acts?
- How have you seen this blueprint for how the Spirit works in your life or in the life of people around you?
- What is Jesus’ invitation to you from this passage?