

Peter's First Sermon
Lesson #17
Acts 2:14-41

1. During the Feast of Shavuot, God again came to meet with his people. His presence was made known through the sound of a rushing wind, and tongues of fire that came to rest on each of Jesus' followers. Jesus had told his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for this gift. It was the gift of the Holy Spirit taking up residence in the new Temple of the Lord, the heart of every believer. Immediately following the arrival of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' followers began to speak in tongues, all the languages that were present that day. Between the sound of the wind and the speaking in tongues, a crowd had formed around the disciples. Two reactions were recorded that day. What were those reactions? (Acts 2:12 & 13)

Peter's First Sermon - Acts 2:14-40

"Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd." (Acts 2:14a) Peter's first sermon was short, consisting of quoting three passages of Scripture and explaining how each had been fulfilled. The first Scripture was from Joel 2:28-32 and recorded in Acts 2:17-21.

2. When did God say that these things would take place? (Acts 2:17a)
3. What did God say he would do? (Acts 2:17a)
4. Who would be the recipients? (Acts 2:17b-18a)
5. What were they to do? (Acts 2:18b)
6. What did God say he would do? (Acts 2:19-20a)
7. What are those sign of? (Acts 2:20b)
8. What was Joel's plea in this? (Acts 2:21)

- Acts 2:28a

 - Acts 2:28b
15. Whereas this “prophet” spoke in the first person, he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to prophesy these things about God’s Holy One. In his explanation of this Scripture, how did Peter address the crowd? (Acts 2:29a)

 16. What did he say he was confident about? (Acts 2:29b)

 17. However, God had given David a promise – an oath. What was that promise? (Acts 2:30)

 18. This audience would be remembering the Davidic Covenant recorded in 2 Samuel 7:11-16. What promise, in particular, would come to their minds? (2 Samuel 7:16)

 19. What was Peter’s Holy Spirit empowered explanations of what David was saying in this prophecy? (Acts 2:31)

 20. How had that been fulfilled? (Acts 2:32 – 33a)

 21. Continuing, Peter explained that this crowd had also become witnesses. What did he say they had become witnesses to? (Acts 2:33b)

 22. Stop here and reflect upon this important truth. Who did Peter say was the one who poured out the Holy Spirit?

23. Peter's third and final Scripture quote is from Psalms 110, one of the Scriptures that Jesus often quoted. Peter had already revealed that Jesus had been "*exalted to the right hand of God.*" (Acts 2:33a) According to David's psalm, how long will he sit there? (Acts 2:35)

24. The heart of Peter's message comes in verse 36. What did he say all Israel could be assured of? (Acts 2:36)

25. With the Holy Spirit present and working in the hearts of these people, what was their response to Peter's message? (Acts 2:37)

26. One can only imagine the horror and sense of guilt they must have felt as they realized they had crucified God's Holy One. In agony they asked Peter what to do. What was his response?
 - Acts 2:38a

 - Acts 2:38b

27. Whom did Peter say this promise was for? (Acts 2:39)

Peter didn't stop there. Verse 40 says, "*With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, 'save yourselves from this corrupt generation.'*" The crowd had a decision to make that day. Each individual had to decide if he would accept or reject the message of Christ. As in all New Testament scripture, there are three different audiences. In this case, there was the original audience to whom Peter was giving this message. There was also the first century audience for whom Luke was carefully documenting these events, and finally, the third audience that becomes you and I, the current readers. Each audience must respond to the message of Christ, including us.

- Have you looked at the evidence and accepted Jesus as your Messiah, your Savior, receiving his forgiveness for all your sins?
- Have you made him Lord of your life, giving him first place in everything?

If you have not done so, I plead with you as Peter did over 2,000 years ago. Do not leave this place today without accepting God's gift of salvation.

Conclusion - Acts 2:41

28. Using Acts 2:41:

- How many men in the original audience accepted Peter's message that day?

- What became their first act of obedience?