Sermon Notes

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost: A Christ-Exalting Explanation

Acts 2: 14-41 (pew Bible pgs. 910-911)

What a difference 50 days make! That Peter is publicly standing with the other disciples and speaking about Jesus is amazing. Fifty days earlier he had sat in front of others denying he even knew Christ. Now here he is as the chief spokesman being used by God to save 3000 souls and birth the Christian Church.

What a difference the power of the Holy Spirit makes! Jesus had promised that the Holy Spirit would give them the words they needed when the time came to speak. (Jn 15:26) And now we see that happening as Peter stands up and gives an unprepared, yet powerful sermon.

What a difference the gospel message makes! Peter's message is simple, scriptural, and Christ-centered. It cuts people to the heart and calls for a response. All of these differences are seen in today's passage as we see Peter stand and preach the first public sermon in the book of Acts. And what a Christ-exalting sermon it was!

Exalting Jesus is the primary work of the Holy Spirit. Concerning the Holy Spirit Jesus said, "He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you." (John 16:14) That purpose has not changed. The message has not changed. The Holy Spirit has not changed. We have the same Word, the same Spirit, and the same calling. We have the necessary equipment to be faithful witnesses for Christ. We have the necessary power through the Holy Spirit. We, like Peter, live in a lost and hurting community filled with lost and hurting people, many of whom, given the chance, will ask, "Brothers, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37) This passage gives us a good outline of what to say when that time comes.

When the time comes, use Scripture to explain what is happening in your life(vv14-21)

When the time comes, simply explain who Jesus is and what he has done (vv22-36)

When the time comes – simply explain what it means to follow Christ (vv37-40)

When the time comes – simply trust God to do the saving (v41)

Life Group Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew: I was challenged:
I was reminded: I was convicted:

A question I still have: A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

The Holy Spirit brought about a dramatic change in Peter's life. Consider those changes in his life, and consider your own. What changes has the Spirit brought about in your life and witness?

All those who are filled with the Spirit, like Old Testament prophets, can know God intimately and are called to make him known faithfully. What Moses longed for (Numbers 11:29) and what Joel predicted – now has arrived. Consider your prophetic role within your circle of influence. How are you growing in your intimacy with Christ? How are you making Him known?

Consider Peter's message at Pentecost is simple, scriptural and Christ-centered. Take some time to recap the gospel message, it's scriptural references and key points. Take time in LG to share that message and pray for one another's boldness in sharing that message.

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

Westwood Staff

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Upcoming Events

TODAY - Decorate for Christmas

December 1 - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

December 2 - Lottie Moon Mailbox opens

December 12 - Church Conference

December 15 - Adult Christmas Program

December 16 - Children's Christmas Program

December 24 - Candlelight Service & Communion