

40 Days of Prayer & Devotion to Easter

Day 15

Acts 2 begins with the apostles waiting in Jerusalem for the help that Jesus has promised. Then in verse 2, on the day of the celebration of Pentecost, like fire from heaven, the Holy Spirit arrives and empowers the disciples to begin the ministry of proclaiming the good news of Jesus to all they would encounter. Peter then stands up and addresses the crowd, and the message that he says to them is just simply the truth of who Jesus is.

In verse 22, he tells them that Jesus is the Messiah, God's own Son, sent from the Father to live with us. He reminds them in verse 23 that their sin is what put Jesus on the cross, and He died and gave His life for them. Then in verse 24, Peter proclaims that death couldn't hold Him and that Jesus overcame the grave and now sits at the right hand of God. It is the simple, but powerful message of the Gospel.

*When Peter is done speaking, we pick up in verses 37-39:
"When they heard this, they came under deep conviction and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: "Brothers, what must we do?"
"Repent," Peter said to them, "and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

There are three important things about the Gospel that stand out to me as I read this account. One, the Gospel convicts. Peter doesn't tell any witty stories or develop an incredible intellectual argument that answers all of their possible theological questions. In fact, his entire sermon takes about two minutes to read. He just simply shares the truth of who Jesus is and what He has done, and people are cut to the heart. The second thing I notice is the Gospel demands a response. The question is asked by the people, "What must we do?" And Peter tells them how we are to approach our Savior, with humility and surrender. Finally, we are reminded at the end, the Gospel is for all people. Even those who are far off. The ones you think might never be receptive, the gospel is powerful enough to reach them as well. The call for each of us is simply to live with an outward and eternal focus. Who will you share the simple, powerful message of Jesus with this Easter season?

– Pastor Tavis Hackathorn

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– Acts 2:38

