



Acts 2:14-21 “Proclaim: What Was Written (Pt.1)”

Intro:

For the next three weeks, we will study Peter’s powerful sermon that God used to call and stir the hearts of thousands, and that He would use to begin this new era of the church and spread the Gospel throughout the known world. Though we will definitely look at the content of Peter’s preaching and the passages he references, our main focus will be on the how more than the what. We are not only asking, “What did Peter preach?” but also, “How did Peter proclaim the Gospel as a witness of Jesus?”

Peter’s sermon gives us a model for Gospel proclamation. He does not focus on personal opinion, cultural trends, emotional manipulation, or human wisdom. He focuses on Scripture. He opens the Word of God, explains what is happening through Scripture, and offers the hope of salvation through Scripture. So this week, we will focus on proclaiming what was written, with the goal of learning that the Word of God must be our main resource and foundation if we are going to be effective witnesses for Jesus.

V.14-20

“But Peter, *standing with the eleven*, **lifted up his voice and addressed them** (*Proclaimed*): “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. *For these people are not drunk, as you suppose*, since it is only the third hour of the day. **But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel**: “*And in the last days* it shall be, God declares, *that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh*, and your sons and your daughters shall *prophesy* (Acts 2:11), and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days *I will pour out my Spirit*, and they shall *prophesy*. And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, **before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.**”

1. Preach Through Scripture

Peter does not rely on motivational preaching, though his preaching did motivate. He does not rely on philosophical preaching, though his preaching did engage the mind. He does not rely on making his hearers emotional, though his preaching did move their hearts. He relied on **THE WORD OF GOD**.

What we see Peter doing here is a clear example of expository preaching. He goes to a passage of Scripture, lets the passage speak, and simply explains what God has already said. Though testimonies, illustrations, and analogies can be helpful tools for proclaiming the Gospel, none of them are **LIVING** and **ACTIVE** as the Word of God is (Hebrews 4:12). The Word of God should **ALWAYS** be central to our preaching of the Gospel. We should let God explain the Gospel through His own words while we simply serve as tools that point people to Scripture, connect truths, and explain what God has already revealed. The power is not in our creativity, eloquence, or personality. The power is in the Word of God.

- “**I charge you** *in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom*: **preach the word**; **be ready** *in season and out of season*; **reprove**, **rebuke**, and **exhort**, with **complete patience** and **teaching**.” 2 Timothy 4:1-2
ESV

2. Interpret Through Scripture

Many of the people in that moment saw and heard the disciples proclaiming the mighty works of God in many languages and were amazed, yet others mocked and concluded that they were drunk. Peter, however, interprets what is happening in the light **OF SCRIPTURE**. Not through emotion, human

reasoning, or speculation, but through the Word of God. He essentially says, “Let me show you what God has already said about this.”

In the same way, as we proclaim the Gospel, we must learn to interpret the world and our lives through Scripture rather than through our emotions or our own understanding. We must be careful not to go beyond what is written (1 Corinthians 4:6) or try to define what Scripture doesn’t define. We interpret life in the light of Scripture and interpret Scripture in the light of other Scripture. The world constantly tries to explain reality apart from God’s Word. Peter shows us a better way. ***Rather than interpreting Scripture through our experiences, we must learn to interpret our experiences through Scripture.***

V.21

“And it shall come to pass that **everyone who calls upon *the name of the Lord* shall be saved.**”

3. Hope Through Scripture

In Christ there is Hope! The greatest hope! A hope that is **ASSURED** and **SEALED** in Christ! The hope of salvation for all who repent of their sins and place their faith in Christ and His saving work on the cross. Notice that Peter ends this section with salvation: “everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Even before Peter begins preaching Christ directly, he is already pointing his hearers toward the hope that is found in Him.

This is the true Biblical hope we have and the hope we proclaim. Salvation for our souls through Jesus Christ. Sadly, many times the Gospel is presented with false hopes and false expectations—that God promises earthly riches, constant comfort, or a life free from suffering. While God does promise to care for His children, He never promises a life without trials. In fact, Jesus promised that we would face tribulation in this world (John 16:33). Yet He also promises something far greater. The One who entered this broken world, suffered, died, and rose again has overcome sin and death. He promises to be with His people through every trial until the day He returns and brings us home. This is the hope we have, and this is the hope we offer when we proclaim the Gospel.

Conclusion and Main Idea:

After His resurrection, Jesus spent forty days teaching His disciples and showing them how all of Scripture ultimately pointed to Him (Luke 24:44–47). Now, in Acts 2, we begin to see Peter doing exactly what Jesus taught him to do. He opens the Scriptures, explains what is happening through the Scriptures, and points people to the hope of salvation found in God through the Scriptures. As witnesses of Jesus, we are called to do the same. We must preach from Scripture, interpret life through Scripture, and offer the hope found in Scripture. The Word of God is not merely a helpful resource for Gospel proclamation—it is the very foundation of it. If we want to be effective witnesses for Christ, we must be people who know God’s Word, trust God’s Word, and boldly proclaim God’s Word.

Memory Verse:

“And it shall come to pass that *everyone* who calls upon *the name of the Lord* shall be saved.” Acts 2:21
ESV

