

Title: The Day Three Thousand Believed

Text: Acts 2:37-41

Acts chapter 2, please. Acts chapter 2 beginning with Vs 37...

I don't know if you are excited about the book of Acts; but if you would read this book you will get excited about God's plan for the church. And I think that Acts chapter 2 is one of the most exciting chapters in the entire Bible. Things are happening. Do you realize that what happened on this day, the decisions alone..that is, people coming to know Christ, that it would take this sanctuary filled 10 times just to hold the number of people in one moment of time that believed in Jesus? WOW! This is the day that 3 thousand believed.

Now, I would like to picture in your mind that scene. And if you could imagine the Temple area for a moment. Think of some picture that you might have seen. And let your mind see that vast Temple area which was included by beautiful walls and one great building in the middle. A building with majesty and splendor and priceless metal. And as the sun reflected off those buildings you could see how they would shine of wealth and beauty. And in the midst of this great acreage of land there was a long series of columns and a porch like affair that was called Solomon's porch. This was a huge area. And over to one side we can see the many shops selling things like doves and goats and lambs that would be used in the sacrifices. And there are little shops along the way selling various religious articles. You see Chief Priests and Scribes with long flowing robes walking all over the place. And you see multitudes of people there; and you conclude as you walk through the crowds that there are people from all over the world, for there are various dialects and languages being spoken.

And they have all gathered in this great area for the feast of Pentecost. One of the three feast that every Jew 20 years and older had to attend.

*Remember - This is The Day of Pentecost*

A great gathering of people. The crowd numbering in the hundreds of thousands. And somewhere, perhaps on the platform on Solomon's porch, Peter and his little handful of believers (120 of them) stands up with the 11 ~~men~~ <sup>apostles</sup> behind him, according to chapter 2:14, and Peter stands (and preaches to the multitudes. *Filled with the Holy Spirit.*)

Now, friends, this was before microphones. 3000 believed. How many were in the crowd, we don't know. Hundreds of thousands could gather in the Temple area. And they were all there as Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit tells these people who crucified Jesus Christ just 50 days before, that they have with wicked hands ~~taken~~ <sup>Taken</sup> and killed the Son of God. Yet, in spite of what they did, Jesus arose from the dead. And that God has made him both Lord and Saviour.

Now, with this in your mind, we begin at Vs 37....

(Read Acts 2:37-41)

Prayer

*My Job = To Comfort The Afflicted - & - To Afflict The Comfortable*

*EAR = Big Bird  
Throat = Cookie Monster  
Heart = Barney in your Heart - Heart Jesus - Heart Barney - Undermine*

In these few verses, we have the day that 3000 believed. I would like to share with you some simple facts. And I would like you to follow closely in your Bibles because this is a very important passage. It was the first day that the Gospel as we know it today was preached. And it was preached by Peter. *Here we come learn out to witness to others*  
And some tremendous things happened.

(18) I would like you to notice, first of all, in Verse 37, the recognition of their need. The recognition of their need. The Bible says "when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart."

Dear friends, I would like to say to you as straight as I can that we must recognize our need before we can ever experience what God wants us to experience

So many people do not see their need. They feel no guilt; they feel no piercing of the heart. They do not recognize their need of salvation. WE must recognize our need.

There are two phrases in Vs 37 that illustrate that they recognized their need.

(10) Number one, it says when "they heard this."

Dear friends, we really need to understand that when the Bible says that there is no faith in any person's heart without the avenue of hearing. Many people try to avoid hearing the Gospel. And yet that is so necessary.

Romans 10:14 says.. "How shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard?" You must hear the WORD OF GOD in order to believe. When they heard they believed.

Dear friends, we could have a great crusade in this church, we would see young people and young adults and all kinds of people becoming part of this church, if we would bring them to hear the Word of God. How shall they believe, unless you bring them to hear. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the WORD OF GOD. This church will grow when and only when we, the members, have a burden to bring the lost so that they might hear the GOSPEL.

(20) The second phrase that illustrates that they recognized their need is "they were pierced to the heart."

What does the word "pierced" mean? According to the dictionary it means: "to pain the mind sharply"... "to cause extreme grief and severe sorrow."

And in its root meaning it means "TO PIERCE AS WITH A SWORD." <sup>Now</sup> And what is being pierced as with a sword? What is feeling the sharp pain? According to this passage, it is the heart. They were pierced in their heart.

<sup>We call</sup> Now, the heart <sup>is</sup> the <sup>emotional center of our Personality</sup> controlling factor in a person and very much related to his mind and to his thoughts.

And the point is so clear. As we hear the Word of God preached, our entire nature and the central controlling factor of our life is being disturbed, is being pained. And that caused us to look beyond ourselves to God.

~~Vs 37~~ is saying that these folks, when they heard Peter preach, recognized their need and felt that need and knew that they had to do something about it. They were pierced in their heart.

*That happens, Today, when people are brought to hear the Gospel — The H.S. Cause a piercing — and people do respond to the invitation. But they must be brought in order to Hear The Gospel*

*omit*  
You know, I could plead with you and other Christians could plead with you, to turn to Christ and accept Him, now, before it is eternally too late. And yet if you never felt that need in your heart, you will reason that Jesus is for somebody else. I don't need God. I am operating my life as I want to operate. And I don't need Him.

Dear friends, there must be a recognition of need. "They were pierced in their heart."

Now, what were they pierced about? The answer is found in Peter's sermon. They were convicted by what he said about Jesus Christ. That He died on the cross for sin. That he was killed by the hands of wicked men. But, God raised Him from the dead. And he is alive. And those folks in that day sensed their sin and they repented.

You say, "Well, I didn't put Christ on the cross. I didn't live then. I wasn't a part of it."

*omit*  
The Bible teaches that all people are a part of what put Christ on the cross. The Bible says that all of our sins were laid on Him. When Jesus went to the cross everyone of us who has ever lived sent him there. It was in God's great plan. Because God knew that man would sin. God knew that man needed a saviour.

And my friends, none of us can remove the guilt of what we have done. Whether one sin or many..all are born in sin. And all are sinners according to God. And it is our sin that put Christ on the cross.

But, the great truth is that God raised Jesus from the dead. And He is alive. They were pierced in their heart and they saw their need. Oh, I hope that is true of everyone of us, here, this morning. *That is what we need.*

*omit*  
**N**ow, why did some of these people respond to Peter's sermon, and some did not? Many hundreds of people heard this sermon. Some responded and some did not. WHY?

What is the answer? Come back to Acts 1:8. Jesus said to this handful of disciples that "you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

Look at chapter 2, please, verse 4.. "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

You see, the difference, the reason why some felt conviction in their heart and some did not in the simple presentation of the gospel is because of the work of God's Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit. Oh, how many times we hear the voice of God, we feel the piercing, we feel the conviction, we know that there is something we should do. And yet, we resist. We resist the calling of the Holy Spirit. God knocks on our hearts door and says, "I want to come in. I want to give you life." And yet, we resist the Holy Spirit.

Oh, dear friends, do not resist. When God knocks, open your life to him. Experience his love and power and saving grace. *They Recognized their need.*

(28) Now, secondly, I would like you to notice at the end of Vs 37, that after they recognized their need, there was a request for help. For they said, "Brethern, what shall we do?"

I don't need to tell you that it is very difficult to help any person who does not want help. RIGHT? Right! WHAT SHALL WE DO? And I am <sup>also</sup> afraid that many of us substitute our own answers for that simple question.

Let me tell you. What a tremendous thrill, when you are talking with some one about Christ, and they ask: WHAT MUST I DO? It is so wonderful.

They were pierced in their hearts, they recognized their need to be saved and they requested help.

(38) And third, notice Peter's answer. Vs 38..Peter said two things. "Repent and be baptized".

Dear friends, what is the answer we should give when people ask us about Christ? REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED.

(10) WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPENT?

One man said, "repentance means what I saw years ago in my little church down in Georgia. IN that little church we used to have what we called the "saw dust trail." And people would walk down that trail to the front of the church and they would be crying; and we used to call that repentance."

You know, many people have that idea of repentance. Repentance is feeling sorrow for what you have done.

Dear friends, that is not repentance...That is not repentance.

No, the word for repentance that is used here and used some 57 times in the N.T. is the word meaning "TO CHANGE YOUR MIND." Oh, tears may accompany it. But, it is TO CHANGE YOUR MIND. A complete turn about. You are going down this road. You <sup>change</sup> ~~change~~ and go down a different road with Christ. That is repentance.

In 2 Corinthians 7:9-10, Paul wrote "I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to repentance; for the sorrow of the world only produces death."

Do you see? There is the kind of sorrow that leads only to crying over what we have done. And feeling the guilt and shame of it and being sorrow for it. <sup>EX - My Kids</sup> But, the kind of sorrow that God wants in our life is that which causes us to change our mind...to change our attitude...to change our purpose...to change our direction. To start following Jesus in all that we do.

Dear friends, repentance is important. Jesus preached repentance. "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

John the Baptist preached repentance: "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The Apostles preached..."repent for Christ is coming."

Paul, on Mars Hill in Athens preached: "that God commanded that all people everywhere should repent of their sins and be saved."

Jesus, taught the disciples in Luke 24 that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in all the world.

A dear old Christian saint said to me once that the one word which seems to have dropped out of a Christian's vocabulary is the word "repent." That over the years Christians have left that word out. But, it is one of the words we must remain ourselves of. And it is the thing we must do in order to be saved. We must repent.

*As Christians we need to repent - over a lack of concern for the lost*

In 2 Peter 3:9, it says that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Paul taught in Romans that the goodness of God leads us to repentance. To a change of mind and heart...REPENT..

What will it take for some of us to repent? You say, "I would like to repent. What does it mean to change my mind? Change my mind out what?"

Dear friends, it means several things. We must change our mind about our sin. Stop excusing sin. Call sin exactly what God calls it. And we must accept the fact that sin has consequences. It brings eternal separation from God.

So, I must change my mind if I am watering down my sin. God cannot minister salvation to me when I am watering down my sin. When I think my good works and my own righteousness will save me. I must change my mind about sin.

Also, I must change my mind about Jesus. If I have the idea that He is just a good man and not God, then I must repent and confess that false belief.

Man cannot save me. Only God who has invaded human life and died for the sins of the whole world could pay for my sins. Only God could do that. I must change my mind about Jesus Christ. I must realize that the moment I accept Jesus as ~~the~~ Lord and Master of my life by faith believing in what God says, then I will be saved. If I do not believe that, I must change my mind. I must believe, now, before it is eternally too late. REPENT, <sup>Peter</sup> ~~JESUS~~ SAID.

(20) And then, secondly, Peter said to be baptized. Vs 38.."repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."

Now, follow this carefully. Is this verse telling us that we must be baptized in water in order that we might be forgiven?...NO..NO..NO

It is not saying that. The little word "FOR" in the phrase "for the forgiveness of sins" IS NOT THE WORD "IN ORDER TO HAVE". But, it is the word, "WITH REFERENCE TO."

It is not saying to be baptized "in order" that I might be forgiven. But, it is saying to be baptized "WITH REFERENCE" to your forgiveness *of sins*

The moment you repent, as Jesus taught, you are forgiven of your sins. And your sins are removed as far away as the East is from the West.

So, why are we baptized? Answer: To testify that we have received Jesus Christ as our saviour. And he has forgiveness us of our sins.

NOW, WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?..... According to Vs 38 everyone who repents. It is God's will that every person repent and then be baptized.

UPON WHOSE AUTHORITY?.....WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?.....Inverse 38 it says, "in the name of Jesus Christ." The little word "in" is a common way of expressing authority.. It is in the authroity of Jesus Christ.

WHY SOULD I BE BAPTIZED? Because Christ commanded it. He told his disciples to go into all the world and baptize ~~them~~ *them*

~~BUT WHY SHOULD I BE BAPTIZED?~~ Well, because the text commands it.

But For What Reason? (The verse clearly says: because of the forgiveness of sins."

*Dear Friend*

*copy* *talks*, I think that so often, we who have been raised in ~~various~~ *various* churches have false ideas about baptism which are not in the Bible. ~~According~~ According to Peter in Acts 2:38 there is one reason and only one reason for being baptized. Because you have experiences forgiveness and ~~cleaning~~ *cleansing* from *your* sin.... And water is the most common element that Christ ever used to teach forgiveness and cleaning. And ~~the moment we are baptized it expresses~~ *when we enter The Waters of Baptism we are* and deminstrates publicly that we have truely repented in our hearts and we have ~~be~~ *we* forgiven and cleaned of our sins.

And to be baptized in water without having truely ~~repenting~~ *repented* would be hypocrisy. But if you truely believed in Christ and repented, then be baptized. *Baptism is* A public deminstrattion that you have believed and God has forgiven *you*....It is an outward deminstration both to God to men and to *yourself* that *you* have truely believed in Jeus Christ and have *Are* repented and have received forgiveness of sins.

*Forth* (4) I would like you to notice the results of what will happen in your life if you repent. According to verse 38 *you will receive two things!*

(1) First of all, as we have already mentioned we receive forgiveness of sins

What does the word "forgiveness" mean? It means to "completely take it away." To remove it form us completely.....

~~LET OF PEOPLE BE BORN~~



The Bible says that all of our sins, everything we have every done, have been removed as far as the EAST is from the WEST....Sin has been taken away...  
FORGIVENESS OF SIN.

(2 D) Secondly, he said we will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Now, what does that mean? That means "His presence in your life." HOW DO I KNOW THAT? Turn over, please, to Acts chapter 10. Acts chapter 10 and notice Vs 43...Peter had gone to preach to some Gentiles...namely a man by the name of Cornelius. Cornelius is the man under discussion. So, really, the message to the Gentiles begins, here, in Acts chapter 10/

Now, please notice what is happening..Acts chapter 10 verse 43..

(Read Vs 43-47 and chapter 11:16-17)

The point that you need to see is this: That when you believe in Jesus Christ and you repent of your sin, you have forgiveness of sins, AND THEN YOU RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. And that gift is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

So, dear friends, when you are baptized with water you are symbolizing your forgiveness of sins, because water cleanses. And when I go into the waters of Baptism, I am demonstrating that I have repented of my sins, and that God has forgiven me of my sins, and that I have been baptized with the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life. ~~That dear friends, is the purpose of water Baptism.~~ *of water Baptism* *verse 6*

O.K. Let's come back to Acts chapter 2 .. According to Vs 38, I receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Which means the Holy Spirit comes into my life. *which means I am saved*

*How 2 vs 41*  
(32) And in Vs 41, we learn the means by which all of this happens. Vs 41 says, "So then, those who have received his word." If you want to experience forgiveness of your sins, if you want to experience the wonderful baptism of the Holy Spirit, if you want to be saved, in other words, YOU MUST RECEIVE HIS WORD. *How - By Hearing* AND WHAT IS HIS WORD ...It is the sermon that Peter preached in Acts 2: <sup>14</sup>22-36..That Jesus died for our sins, that he arose on the third day, that he is God in human flesh....If we believe that, we shall be saved and experience forgiveness of sins and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

~~(\*)~~ And Finally, Vs 41 says that we will be ADDED".. ADDED TO WHAT?

( ) Well, for one thing, we will be added to the Lord. For according to Acts 5:14 believers were all the more added to the Lord.

( ) But, also you will be added to the church. In Acts Chapter 2 verse 41 it says 'it was added that day about 3000 souls.' ADDED TO WHAT? Added to the original 120 disciples.....who were the original membership of the church.

So, dear friends, when you accept Christ as your saviour, you are added to the great host of believers, whatever number that might be today. A great host of believers who make up the membership of the church..the body of Christ

You say, "that seems so simple. You mean, the moment I repent, the moment I change my mind and receive Christ as my saviour, that God forgives me of all my sins?.....that is right ....

No matter what you have done, whether great or small, all of your sins were laid on Jesus when He ~~went~~<sup>went</sup> to the cross. And the moment you repent and turn to Christ you receive forgiveness of sins, you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and you are added to the body of Christ---the Church.....

PRAISE GOD.....

~~Let's close in prayer~~

Have you truly repented of your sin? Have you?  
Have you ask Jesus to come into your life? Have you?

IF You answer NO

Then MAKE that decision right Now - Repent and

received Jesus as your Saviour. Praise God - you are saved  
if you answer YES →

Let's close in prayer

Then - Go invite others  
to come to Christ

Andrew Card