

Acts 2:14-16

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

Sometimes people will ask me "What are you preaching on Sunday?" My favorite answer is "Come and see." Well, today is Pentecost and Pentecost is one of those times when the only thing you can preach on is Pentecost. **Acts 2:1-4** is the big hurrah, it is very dramatic with the sound of a violent wind, tongues as of fire, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. All of the people were amazed but the people were also perplexed. As the disciples spoke in different languages some of the people thought that the disciples were drunk.

This brings us to today's Scripture. Peter is standing there with the other disciples and he addresses the audience in response to the accusation of being drunk by quoting the prophecy of Joel as it is recorded in **Joel 2:28-32**. Peter sets out to prove that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is a foundational event of a new era. It is Israel's last days. The old way is over. Now the time has come for everyone to be saved that calls on the name of the Lord. I want to emphasize an important point. The history of Israel is rooted upon the Hebrews being God's chosen. This is well defined in the Old Testament. Exodus has one of the best examples when the Israelites reach Mount Sinai. **Exodus 19:5-6** if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. Israel has been God's chosen throughout history but the covenant hinges on a commitment of the people to keep covenant. All throughout the Bible are conflicts stemming from the people failing to keep covenant. God did a very significant game changing event. Instead of punishing the people for disobedience (like the Great Flood or the Exile) God sends love. Well, God's love isn't reserved for the Israelites; God's love is for everyone. So, what we have here is a pivotal point in history where the love of God was given through Jesus to the world. The promised blessings of God (forgiveness, eternal life, the gift of the Holy Spirit) are for everyone who repents and believes.

Peter raises his voice to correct their misunderstanding and proclaims that they are not drunk. What the people have experienced has been prophesized by Joel as the outpouring of the Spirit. Peter demonstrates these events that they have experienced are God's plan. Then Peter shocks them with the bold truth. Jesus was obviously sent by God. This is demonstrated by his power, the miracles, and all the signs, but you had him crucified outside of the law. But then God raised him up and freed him from death. Now the Holy Spirit has been poured out so that you can see, hear, and know with certainty that the Lord and Messiah is Jesus the person that you crucified. That is very powerful testimony, probably the most powerful testimony in Bible. The people want to know "What are we to do?" The answer is for all to hear "Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

What happens next is very significant for us today. It is the basics of what we are to do. **Acts 2:42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. They devoted themselves to teaching. They devoted themselves to fellowship. They devoted themselves to breaking of bread. They devoted themselves to prayers. This is the birth of the church. This is the church that Jesus built. This is the church that the Holy

Spirit founded. This is who we are to do be as a church. We are to be devoted to teaching, devoted to fellowship, devoted to the breaking of bread, and devoted to prayers.