

"Peter's Sermon"

Part 6

Acts 2

Introduction: Tonight in our study of Acts we are going to look at how the Holy Spirit worked through Peter's sermon in Acts 2. As we come to our text tonight there are some verses that demand our special attention in order to be properly interpret them.

I. The Conviction

Notice Acts 2:37

The word "**prick**" means they were "**cut to the heart.**" The Sword of the Spirit had pierced their hearts deeply. Let us notice something that had happened in the garden when Jesus was arrested.

John 18:10-11

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

¹¹ Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

The night Jesus was arrested Peter wielded a sword as he cut off the ear of Malchus. He was swinging for the head, but this was a fisherman who was not familiar with combat. The sword in the garden that Peter wielded did superficial damage but the Sword that Peter wielded on the Day of Pentecost did far more as it cut directly to the heart of thousands of sinners. The Holy Spirit used this Sword that Peter wielded to bring great conviction. This was what Jesus had promised.

John 16:7-9

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me;

Paul experienced these convictions before he was saved.

Acts 9:3-5

³ *And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:*

⁴ *And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?*

⁵ *And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

This is what happens today as the Word of God is shared with unbelievers. We must remember that it takes the Sword of the Spirit to cut deep into the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

¹² *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

To use human reasoning to bring people under conviction will do no good at all. We must share the Truth of God's Word if the Holy Spirit is going to cut the unbeliever to the heart.

Now we must also understand that the sinner can respond in several ways.

1. Anger

Sometimes they turn upon the messenger because of the conviction.

Acts 7:54-58

⁵⁴ *When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*

⁵⁵ *But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,*

⁵⁶ *And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.*

⁵⁷ *Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,*

⁵⁸ And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.

Genesis 4:5-8

⁵ But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

⁶ And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

⁷ If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

⁸ And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

2. Suppression

There are others who will chose to suppress the convictions and harden their hearts.

2 Timothy 4:3-5

³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

⁴ And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

⁵ But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Matthew 19:16-22

¹⁶ And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

¹⁷ And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

¹⁸ He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

¹⁹ Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

²⁰ *The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?*

²¹ *Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.*

²² *But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.*

This is a very dangerous place for the unbeliever to come to. I have met people who are not saved but they can quote the Bible better than many believers. They have allowed the Word to enter their mind but not their heart.

Proverbs 29:1

He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

3. Acceptance

There are those, just as Peter's listeners who will see their true sinful condition and desire salvation.

Acts 16:27-32

²⁷ *And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.*

²⁸ *But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.*

²⁹ *Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,*

³⁰ *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*

³¹ *And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

³² *And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.*

Luke 3:7-10

⁷ *Then said he to the multitude that came forth to be baptized of him, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*

⁸ *Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.*

⁹ *And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*

¹⁰ *And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?*

II. The Remedy

Notice Acts 2:38

There is much for us to consider in this verse. Many have misunderstood this verse and it has led them to believe in "Baptismal Regeneration" which is the belief that baptism is required for salvation. If that is what Peter was saying here, then we would have many contradictions to deal with in the Bible. That is not what Peter is saying here as we shall see.

Let us first of all understand the wording here. This is what is known as "**inverse parallelism**." That term most likely does not mean much to the average reader, but it will as we look closer. Let us look at Peter's words again.

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"

Peter is saying here "Repent, for the remission of sins, and then be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."

1-Repent

2-Be baptized

2-Every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ

1-For the remission of sins.

The two "1's" go together, and the two "2's" go together.

Let us notice a few other verses that will help us to see the same thing.

Matthew 7:6

⁶ *Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.*

Here in this verse the dogs do the rending, and the swine do the trampling.

Philemon 1:5

⁵ *Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;*

The faith spoken of here is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the love is toward all the saints. We certainly are not to rest our faith in man.

Getting back to Acts, Peter was NOT telling his readers that baptism was required for salvation. I want to take the rest of our time to understand how baptism is NOT required for our salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:14-17

¹⁴ *I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;*

¹⁵ *Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.*

¹⁶ *And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.*

¹⁷ *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.*

Paul made it very clear that he was NOT sent to baptize but to preach the Gospel. If baptism was a requirement for salvation, then surely the Lord would have sent him to baptize.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Salvation is by grace through faith alone.

John 3:16, 18, 36

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

¹⁸ He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Conclusion:

Baptism is important because it is a step of obedience, but it is not a requirement for salvation. Next week we will look at repentance and how that is important in salvation.