

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 5 – This is That

Acts 2.14-28

Peter stood to speak, but the 11 had his back - ROGER

Explain the Experience

- Do you have something to explain?
 - Some speak beyond their experience – witness rings hollow and superficial
- Can you point to the Bible?
 - “This is that...” – rooting experience in the Bible gives the right understanding and deepens what God is doing and what He is teaching us
- Don’t seek the experience – seek God

The Explanation

- Last Days
 - Inaugurated by the Kingdom coming in Jesus, life-death-resurrection-ascension-Spirit (v.17-18)
 - Consummated by groanings of Creation that cannot be contained (v.19-20)
 - Completed when Jesus Himself returns
 - Q: Aren’t we closer today than ever? A: Yep. Same can be said of yesterday
- Supernatural Life
 - Prophecy – timely words from the Word
 - Visions and dreams – supernatural insights and experiences
 - Signs and wonders – miraculous workings
 - EXPECT these things (but that does that make us charismatic?)
 - Do what we do – God will do what God does (no manufacturing necessary)
- Everyone Included
 - How broad is the list? Men / women, young / old, servants / sons, Jew / Gentile (Acts 10)= ALL flesh
 - So what?
 - Spirit, Ministry, Kingdom is for everyone – not a special class
 - There’s not a person who follows Jesus that we can say, “God can’t use them”
 - Maybe influence and not management, maybe priesthood and not position, but God can use everyone
- Salvation Goal
 - He desires forgiveness, freedom, deliverance for all – this is for everyone
 - So EVERYONE gets to be a part of telling EVERYONE

- When God works like He has, the story deserves to be told, news should be announced

You know what kind of life He lived

You know what kind of death He died

We are here to say that God raised Jesus from the dead – forgiveness and freedom

A human court said one thing but God reversed it

Questions for Discussion:

1. When you think of “the greatest Christian you know,” who is it and why do you think they fit the bill? What kinds of spiritual habits do they have? What experiences with God have they had that have shaped them? What unique experiences have you have that shaped you?
2. In the sermon, we stated that “the last days” were inaugurated with the coming of Jesus. In light of “the last days” being right now, what wells up inside of you regarding your relationship with God? What wells up regarding outward ministry?
3. Peter quoted Joel about the Spirit being poured on *all* flesh. In the sermon, we argued that everyone is included in the Kingdom, ministry, and supernatural work of the Spirit. What kinds of people do we tend to write off? What are biblical examples of those that people wrote off but God engaged and/or used?
4. In the worship service, we stopped to pray for someone who didn’t know Christ, a specific name and a specific request for their salvation. Who is that in your life? How are you praying for them? What door might God open for you to walk through? Our strategy is 1) Culture of Invitation -> 2) Tell your Story -> 3) Share the Gospel. What stage are you at with that person?