

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 6 – Persuading and Pleading

Acts 2.25-41

Persuade

- Jesus is the better David (v.25-31)
 - David was speaking about Jesus when he sang Psalm 16
 - They were longing for a King and Jesus is that King!
- Jesus fulfills what we want right in the world (religious desires)
 - Virtue – morality – hope – etc. “Out there”
- Jesus fulfills the longings of our souls (irreligious desires)
 - Passion – purpose – satisfaction – story – etc. “In here”
- How do you know this is true? The Gospel!
 - God has raised Him from the dead (v.32)
 - God has kept His promise of the Spirit (v.33)
 - God has declared King Jesus is the Lord (v.34-36)

Side note: the persuasion comes from Peter’s certainty

- He didn’t argue against but for – positive assertions – because He has something to live for
 - No smoothness to Peter but there is certainty (1 Cor. 2.1-2, 2 Cor. 2.14-17)
- The certainty led to Peter’s confidence – not because he was such a great orator or had such a great track record
 - Any number of reasons people come to Christ, but they surrender to Him because they come to believe He is who He says He is

Response: They were cut to the heart (v.37)

- MLJ – Christianity isn’t something you take up – it’s something that takes you up
- They knew they needed a fundamental shift in allegiance, a transformation

Plead

- Repent – rethinking your thinking
 - In light of who Jesus is, what do you need to do?
 - Repentance means change, new allegiance, surrender – can’t have Him for His benefits but not His leadership, can’t have only part of Jesus, no Savior without Lord
- Be Baptized – outward symbol of inward allegiance
 1. Not necessary for salvation – necessary for identification
 2. Only one example of unbaptized believer in NT – thief on the cross

- Forgiveness – release from the debt owed to God
 - Remains unpopular to talk about sin BUT necessary to talk about it when you talk about Christianity
- Holy Spirit – down payment on the life to come
 - Our guarantee and taking ownership so that we are filled with Him and under His influence

Questions for Discussion:

1. Out of your friend / neighbor / family circle, do you find more people asking questions and expressing longings for things to be right in the world or right in their soul? How do they typically express themselves? How about you – more longings for a rightness in the world or satisfaction in your soul? How does Jesus fulfill these?
2. In the sermon, Trent stated that Peter’s persuasive power came not from his smoothness of speech but from his certainty. Paul picked up on this in 1 Cor. 2.1-2 and 2 Cor. 2.14-17. Read each passage. How does this affect the way you participate in our Culture of Invitation, Telling your Story, and Sharing the Gospel?
3. In Acts 2.38-39, Peter stated four basic responses to the Gospel. The first was to repent (rethink your thinking). How do you understand repentance? What are modern day examples of people repenting (not necessarily spiritually)? What does repentance look like in a believer’s life? In an unbeliever’s life?
4. The second thing Peter said to do was be baptized. Trent argued that it was an outward symbol. How did you grow up understanding baptism (if at all)? Why is baptism important to the church? To individual believers? Why do we believe it is NOT necessary for salvation?
5. The third thing Peter said to do was receive the forgiveness of sin. Why is this part necessary to the message of Christianity? Read Colossians 2:13-14 and 1 Peter 2.22-25. What do these two apostles help us understand about Christianity?
6. The last thing Peter promised was they would receive the gift of the Spirit and it would impact generations (v.39). Why did he emphasize the Spirit’s coming into a believer’s life as part of salvation? How do you think that impacts generations and “those who are far off?”