

In the Spiritual Maternity Ward

Acts 2:5-41

Today we return to Acts 2 and the miracle which took place on the Day of Pentecost. It was the day and time of the fulfillment of the promises Jesus made to His disciples. We read in both Luke 24 and in Acts 1 where just prior to His ascension into heaven Jesus had declared to His followers:

"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

"...the Promise of My Father..., endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

Then we read in Acts 1

*"...you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now." (Acts 1:5)*

*"...you shall **receive power when the Holy Spirit** has come upon you." (Acts 1:8)*

This is what was taking place at that very moment; **and as the presence and power of the Holy Spirit overwhelmed their lives, they began to give glory to God.** As they experienced for the first time that **filling of the Holy Spirit** in their lives, they began to overflow; to burst out with joy and praise to God Almighty.

Warren Wiersbe has an interesting take on the whole experience we see happening here. In his commentary on Acts 2, he states that among other things –

- Pentecost was a reversal of the judgment at the Tower of Babel when God confused man's language (Gen. 11:1–9).
- God's judgment at Babel scattered the people, but God's blessing at Pentecost united the believers in the Spirit.
- At Babel, the people were unable to understand each other; but at Pentecost, men heard God's praises and understood what was said.
- **The Tower of Babel was a scheme designed to praise men and make a name for men, but Pentecost brought praise to God.**

- The building of Babel was an act of **rebellion**, but Pentecost was a ministry of **humble submission** to God.¹

And so, as we looked last time, all those who were in the house, *were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* (Acts 2:4). Then Luke goes on in verse 5 –

⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

We spoke about the variety of the nations and the languages last time. But one thing we read here is that those within the city were drawn to the sound, **AND** there were at least a couple of differing reactions. Just as today, **when men hear the message of the Gospel** they respond in a variety of ways, even here as the miracle was taking place we find that not everyone who saw and heard what was going on responded in the same way. Look down in verse 12-13

¹² So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?" ¹³ Others mocking said, "They are full of new wine."

The mockers believed they were drunk with new wine (we will look at that in a moment), yet others were sincere in desiring to know what exactly was happening.

Look at the verbs Luke uses to explain the reaction of these men to what was going on:

In verse 6 we read they were “...**confused**, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.”

Then in verse 7 we find their confusion quickly turned, as “...**they were all amazed and marveled**...”

Then down in verse 12, Luke brings back the idea that they were amazed, but then he also adds that they were “...**perplexed**, saying to one another,

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 408.

"Whatever could this mean?" They had an honest interest in what was going on.

Yet we see once again in 13, *"Others mocking said, "They are **full of new wine.**"*

I love it when you look at the response of these men to the action and move of the Holy Spirit within the lives of these Believers –

They were ***confused**...*, ***amazed and marveled**...*, and even ***perplexed***, saying to one another, *"Whatever could this mean?"*

If Luke were writing today he might have even added, *"They were **blown away** by the events they were experiencing."*

But what **about** today? Personally, I feel it's all too rare that the world looks at us today as Believers, as the Church, as the representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ and are ***amazed and marveled**...* at least in a positive way!!

How often does the world, our co-workers, and even our family look at our lives; trying to figure us out, even ***perplexed***, and ask the question, *"Whatever could this mean?"*

Again, that is in a **positive way!**

Personally I feel that we (*myself included*) have **sanitized, homogenized and even pasteurized** the **work** and **move** of God within our lives, to where it is all **too palatable for the world.**

Even as we will see **in just a couple of chapters later here in Acts 4**, beginning in verse 8, Peter and John were arrested and placed before the Jewish High Court (*the Sanhedrin*). Luke tells us that *Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit***, stood up and spoke to the court. And after he spoke, verse 13 tells us *"...when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they **marveled**. And they realized that **they had been with Jesus.**"*

As I've looked and studied on these passages, I've had to ask myself the question: "When the world looks at me, do they know that I've been with Jesus?" When my neighbors, when my staff, **when my wife** looks at me: "Do they know that I've been with Jesus?"

Do they see the work of the Holy Spirit in my life, or do they simply see the works and the efforts of a man?

When the world looks at us as Believers, do they see the **power** and the **infilling** of the Holy Spirit in our lives? Do they know that we've been with Jesus, or do they look at us and hear our conversations and realize more so that,

- We've been to the movies...
- We've been to the ballgame...
- We've been to the beach...
- We've been to the mall...
- I've gone to see my Grandkids...

Who or what are we passionate about? Who or what drives our lives and our emotions? Are we truly filled with the Holy Spirit, or are we filled with the things of this world?

There is nothing intrinsically wrong with the movie theater, or the ballgame, or the beach, and **certainly nothing wrong with MY Grandkids**, or a host of others things we could put on the list. The question is, who is it that fills our lives? Who is it that drives our greatest passions?

The mockers on the Day of Pentecost saw what was going on and declared, "*These guys are full of **new wine**. They're drunk.*"

It's interesting to note that at the time of Pentecost, there would have been plenty of "**new wine**" to be had. It was this time of year that the beginning of the grape harvest would have produced the beginning of the fermentation period of the wine.

This "**new wine**" was also called *sweet wine*, due to the fact that the bitterness of the fermentation had not had its full effect – it was a very sweet wine. You can understand the sweetness of it by the Greek word, it's called: γλεῦκος **glēukōs**, (*glyoo'-kos*).

It wouldn't have been uncommon during this time period for anyone to have over indulged in this sweet wine, due to its sweet flavor, without realizing that even with this "**new wine**" they could get intoxicated if they drank enough. That is probably the reason for their statement, "*They are full of new wine.*"

But now, in the midst of the **confusion**, the **amazement**, the **marveling** and the **perplexity**; even in the **midst** of the **mockery**: the Apostle Peter, **empowered by the Holy Spirit**, stood before the crowd that was gathered and began to speak boldly.

Look with me beginning at 2:14

¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. ¹⁵ "For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

The third hour of the day would have been 9:00 in the morning. No, they're not drunk, there is something else going on that **the natural mind doesn't comprehend**. Peter brings them back to the prophecy written by Joel, but with the distinct purpose: to explain what had just taken place, but more importantly, there was the need to share with them **the message of Christ, crucified and raised again!**

*¹⁶ But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "And it shall come to pass in the **Last Days**, says God, that I will **pour out of My Spirit** on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will **pour out My Spirit** in those days; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ²¹ **And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.**"*

These words from the Prophet Joel encompassed the entirety of Last Days events. But Peter wasn't saying that all that Joel spoke of in this prophecy had now come to pass.

What Peter is sharing deals with what just took place, it's within the context of all the events spoken of by Joel.

A portion of the message speaks about the ending, or the **LAST** of the **Last Days**: *wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke.* ²⁰ *The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.*

But the other portion, deals with the **beginning** of the **Last Days**, as he declares how: *God (says), that (He) will pour out of (His) Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams.* ¹⁸ *And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.*

Peter is connecting the dots for the men who were listening, to help them realize that the events which just happened and what will continue to happen are **signs of the Last Days**. What we see here is the beginning or **THE BIRTH OF** the **Church Age** and at this beginning it's just the beginning of the fulfillment of the Prophecy of Joel.

Then Peter ties it all in with the context of the message of Jesus Christ –

*²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know – ²³ Him, being delivered by the **determined purpose and foreknowledge of God**, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*

In relating the events of the crucifixion, Peter doesn't mince his words. He is very straightforward in his declaration: *Jesus of Nazareth..., you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;*

But, he also relays the fact that it all of this didn't take God by surprise. The crucifixion of Christ wasn't a failure in the plan of God, it was: *by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God.*

As a matter of fact, it was all God's plan and added to that plan was the fact that Jesus was the One *whom God raised up*

That brings us to the **Second Point** of Peter's sermon, quoting from the words of King David in Psalm 16, as he declares:

²⁵ For David says concerning Him: "I foresaw the LORD always before my face, for He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. ²⁶ Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. ²⁷ For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence."

Peter then goes on to explain and bring the meaning of David's words to a current application for those listening – he connects David's words with **the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus –**

*²⁹ Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both **dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.** ³⁰ Therefore, **being a prophet**, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³² **This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.***

In **quoting from Joel**, Peter declares that God has a perfect plan for the Last Days and He was currently working that plan out. Then, **quoting from David** Peter shares that God had planted the **reality of the resurrection** within the heart of David as he wrote in the Psalms.

Then Peter wraps it up with the confirmation of the Messiahship of Jesus and the need for *every knee to bow and for every tongue to confess Christ as Lord.*

³³ *Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.* ³⁴ *For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand,* ³⁵ *Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*

³⁶ *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ (or Messiah).*

Jesus is the **Anointed One – in the Greek, He is Christ; in the Hebrew, He is Messiah –** both terms meaning the same thing.

“Oh, and by the way, whom you crucified.

It was your actions that crucified Him!”

I believe that it was those last words which tied everything all together – it brought it all home. It was through the reality of their sinfulness that they are now **drawn to the mercy and forgiveness offered by God, Almighty.**

It is only when I truly see my sin as God sees it that I become broken and willing to repent. As long as I consider my sin a small thing, I don't have reason to repent.

You know, for the guy's first sermon, he hit it out of the park!

That's how you know the Holy Spirit is in control!!

Once they heard the message, these men were convicted of their guilt and their need, they cried out –

³⁷ *Now when they heard this, **they were cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*

³⁸ *Then Peter said to them, "**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*** ³⁹ *For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

And what a powerful promise it is. It is in our brokenness that God's mercy becomes active. It is in our repentance that God's forgiveness covers our sin.

As 1 John 1:7 declares – “*The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*”