

09.05.10 / Acts 2**Passage Insight**

As we look at Acts 2, it should be stated that there have been countless books and sermons that have been inspired by this single chapter. As such, for our purposes it will be necessary to focus on only a couple of points in order to make this guide practical for you and your group.

At the outset of this pivotal book, we see God's own Holy Spirit, God Himself, descending onto those who were following Christ, giving them power to communicate. What were they saying by God's power? Or, to ask it another way, what was God saying through them? He was proclaiming His own mighty works. Moreover, He was doing so in a way that all who heard could understand.

Peter is quick to correct those who say that the cause of these proclamations is drunkenness. Instead, he directs people to the truth, that these very acts were predicted long ago by the prophet Joel and are all part of God's plan to loose the pangs of death and call mankind back to Himself. Peter then does something quite simple. He shares the gospel. He tells people that Jesus, who is Lord and God, was killed because of sin and then raised from the dead. He tells them that they too can take part in this miracle of being inhabited by God in the form of His Holy Spirit by repenting and being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

While the gospel is certainly deep, rich, and beyond what we can fully comprehend, it is also strikingly simple. Jesus conquered sin and death, and if we follow Him, He will live inside of us, and sin and death will have no hold over us. HE WILL LIVE INSIDE OF US. This is the reality of those who follow Jesus. God Himself dwells inside of us.

The Word of God is living and active, and as Peter preached these truths that we now have as part of Scripture, the truth of God overwhelmed those who heard, and 3000 people moved from death to life in a single day. What was it that Peter was speaking? He was proclaiming the mighty works of God, citing Scripture as God's witness and a testimony to what God was doing, and calling people to follow God and not themselves. To be clear, it wasn't by Peter's public speaking ability or the emotion of the moment that 3000 were added to the body of Christ that day – no, it was simply by the power of God Himself as HE proclaimed His mighty works, HE called to mind the Scriptures that HE wrote, and HE called people to Himself. In the same way, it will not be OUR power that saves souls. It can't be. It will only be the power of God's Spirit living in us and working through us that will draw a lost world to the Father and invite them to move from death to life. Our only option is to die before Him that He may be alive in us.

Application Questions**Proclamation of God's Mighty Works**

- 1) When you hear the words, "...the mighty works of God..." what comes to mind?
- 2) How has God used others who follow Him to proclaim these mighty works to you?

Getting In The Way

- 1) There's always the temptation to put too much of ourselves into the mix when we share the gospel with others. How do you do this?
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- 2) Peter was simply obedient to the Spirit of God, proclaiming His mighty works, citing Scripture, and calling people to believe. What can you learn from this?

Simply Sharing the Gospel

- 1) The proclamation of the gospel was a major catalyst in the explosion of the early church. This proclamation was a simple act of obedience. Where do you struggle to obediently make disciples of Jesus?
- 2) Where has God given you opportunities to proclaim His mighty works and share the good news?
- 3) How can your group spur one another on to greater obedience without policing one another (remember, this is GOOD NEWS that we are no longer bound by the law)?
- 4) Praise God for His mighty works. Sing a song if you like, shout out His greatness, or simply praise His name in one another's presence, reminding each other of the greatness of our Lord.

Sources

- Prayer
 - Todd Perkins
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