



## **“A Sermon About A Sermon”**

### **Acts 2:14-41**

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#### **18:47**

All right. We're getting a little deep this morning. I don't know how many of you watched the movie Inception, but we are having a sermon inside of a sermon this morning. So grab your Bibles and make your way to Acts chapter 2. We're going to be in Acts 2, verses 14 through 41 this morning. If you want to follow along and you didn't bring a Bible, there's a black Bible underneath of your chair. We're going to be on page 1115 in those Bibles. So while you're making your way there, just a quick refresher for where we were last weekend. Last weekend we looked at the first 13 verses of Acts chapter 2. We saw the coming of the Holy Spirit. We saw the apostles miraculously speaking in languages that they didn't previously know.

#### **19:29**

And the helper that Jesus had promised to send back in Acts chapter one has arrived. The Holy Spirit is on the scene, and God has fulfilled his promise. And so this miraculous moment when the apostles begin speaking in unknown to them languages has Jerusalem buzzing at this point. We pick up the story this week, and what started as a small gathering last week with just maybe 100 or so people has drawn quite the crowd at this point. People from all over Jerusalem have heard about what was happening and they have gathered to witness this exciting moment. But in the midst of all of that, in the midst of a bunch of untrained, relatively uneducated, common guys, the apostles, there was some confusion about how these men are all of a sudden speaking in different languages. What was the cause of this miracle?

#### **20:23**

And so last week at the end of our passage, we saw some speculation about what was happening. Some people were confused and just kind of openly wondering what was going on. In verse 12 of Acts chapter 2, it says that all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, what does this mean? Meanwhile, there were others that were there in the crowd that simply kind of made a joke of it. They were suggesting that there was a less than pure cause for the abnormal languages that were coming out of these apostles. In verse 13, some speculated and said they're filled up with new wine. They were joking about the fact these guys are just drunk.

#### **21:01**

And so now we pick up the story right after that in verse 14 with this subtle tension present in our passage this morning, some are declaring that a miracle has been done. Others believe that the apostles are just drunk. And a third group kind of doesn't know what to think.

They're, excuse me, they're simply amazed and perplexed. But the good news for us is that good old Peter is on the scene. Now, this is the same Peter who has never let an opportunity to speak up pass him by. He jumped to action every opportunity he had. That was just his personality. We see through the Gospels. This is the same Peter who boldly put his foot in his mouth about a dozen times throughout the Gospels as he jumped into action, sometimes acting or speaking before thinking.

#### **21:46**

But today, Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit, and he stands up and offers this incredible sermon, this incredible defense of the Gospel on that miraculous day, on the day of Pentecost. So let me give us an outline of what happened there on that day that we're going to kind of work our way through. We're going to see a defense, we're going to see a declaration, and then we're going to see a decision in our passages this morning. So let's see what Peter has to say in response to all the confusion as we try to close out kind of what was going on last week in our passage. So we're going to read verse 14 all the way down through verse 41, and then we'll go back and pick it apart a little bit.

#### **22:27**

I invite you to follow along in your copy or on the screens. Acts chapter 2 starting in verse 14, it says. But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them. Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you. Give ear to my words. These people are not drunk as you suppose, since it's only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel. And in the last days it shall be, God declares that I will pour out my spirit on all flesh. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see visions. Your old men shall dream even on my male servants and my female servants in those days I will pour out my spirit, and they shall prophesy.

#### **23:10**

And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below. Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the day of the Lord comes, that great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Men of Israel, hear these words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst. As yourselves know, this Jesus delivered up according to the definite plan and the foreknowledge of God. You crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

#### **23:51**

But God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue rejoiced. My flesh will also dwell in hope, for you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life, and you will make me full of gladness with your presence. Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried and his tomb is with us to this day.

#### **24:31**

Being therefore a prophet, knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would not that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, David foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend to the heavens, but he himself says, the Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool. Let all the house of Israel therefore know certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus who you crucified.

**25:20**

And when they heard this, they were cut to the heart. They said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, brothers, what shall we do? And Peter said to them, repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself. And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, save yourselves from this crooked generation. So those who received his word were baptized. There were added that day about 3,000 souls. This is the word of the Lord. Would you pray with me? God, we thank you for your word.

**26:01**

We thank you for the privilege of being able to come together and to humble ourselves before your truth. This morning, God, we pray that you would give us ears to hear and to receive what you have to say. God, that you would open and soften our hearts, God, that we would be ready to receive what you have for us this morning. Use this time to do your work. It's in Jesus name we pray. Amen. All right. Well, as we dive in, the first thing that we see in this passage is a defense that Peter offers a defense. In verse 14, we see Peter kind of step forward to the microphone. I know there's no microphone, but he kind of steps up and we see this impromptu response to the accusations of drunkenness as Peter offers a defense of what God was doing that day.

**26:42**

It says in verse 14 that he was standing there and he lifts up his voice and says, men of Judea, all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known. Give ear to my words. Listen up. These people are not drunk. It's only the third hour of the day. If the day sun comes up about 6am so third hour of the day, he's saying it's 9am how are these guys drunk already? There is no way that this is what you're saying. It is. He continues in verses 16 through 18 by pointing back to a prophecy from the Old Testament where God had told the people that this day was coming. See, this isn't. They're not just making it up as they go along. God has been unfolding this plan for a long time, all the way since the beginning.

**27:26**

He continues in verse 16 and says, this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel. In the last days that shall be, God declares, I will pour out my flesh on all spirit. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your young men shall see visions. Your old men shall dream dreams. Even on my male servants and female servants in those days, I will pour out my spirit and they will prophesy. Now, as we see that, before we go too far, he starts talking about in the last days. So I've got a question for you. Are we in the last days? Day is today. Yes, we are. How long are the last days going to last? I don't know. Here's what I do know. At least 2000 years, right? Because we use that term.

**28:14**

Peter comments here about the last days, when God will pour out his spirit and we will live in a season unlike any other in human history, those last days. That term, last days is a term that's used to refer to the church age, to the age of the Holy Spirit that started at Pentecost, here in Acts, and will continue until the day of the Lord, which is going to be talked about here in just a verse or two. That's when the day of the Lord is, the term about when Jesus returns and brings an end to this age and ushers in his eternal kingdom. But I hear that term used often, the last days, that we're living in the last days. And I don't think we have proper perspective.

**28:52**

Because when I hear that term used most of the time, it means today is the day, right? We're watching the news, we see conflict in Israel, we see something happen, and we go, oh, wait,

this sounds familiar. I've heard this before. And we start to try to plug the news into our Bible reading, and we go, see, this fits with that. And that's over here. No, no, no. I hear that term last days used often, but I don't know. I don't think most of the time when we use that term, we have proper perspective when we throw that term around. Let me read for you just two verses from the author of Hebrews. Hebrews Chapter 1, verse 1. He says, long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.

### **29:37**

But in these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. In Hebrews chapter 1, he's saying, we have the season of the prophets, we have the season of the Old Testament, and now we have after Jesus, and during the age of the Holy Spirit, we have the last days. So for you who hear that and go, yes, we're in the last days. You are absolutely right. And we have been ever since Peter was in the last days here talking in Acts, chapter 2. Let's continue going in verses 19 through 21, speaking of the last days, Peter comments. Now in verse 19, he says, I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below. Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.

### **30:23**

The sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon to blood. Before the day of the Lord comes, that great and magnificent day, and it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Peter's telling us in these verses that judgment day is going to come. But that's not the point of Peter's message here. He's telling us that the day of the Lord, that's the final day. That's the day when God shows up, the sky cracks open and Jesus shows up to say, enough is enough. And judgment day shows up. Judgment day is coming. But that's not Peter's point here. What Peter does is Peter uses that reminder of future judgment to bring our focus back to where it's needed. Verse 21, he puts our attention back on Jesus, says, it shall come to pass.

### **31:14**

In light of the judgment that's coming, it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved. Peter offers a defense. Then he offers a declaration in verses 22 through 36. After that quick summary statement, verse 21, Peter goes back now to offer further detail about Jesus and his saving work. Verse 22. He looks now at the crowd and addresses the people there in Jerusalem. He says, men of Israel, hear these words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works, wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst. As yourselves know, this Jesus was delivered up according to the definite plan and the foreknowledge of God. You crucified him and killed him by the hands of lawless men.

### **32:06**

But God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death because it was not possible for him to be held by it. Peter's just laying it out there, making it very clear. You were all generally here. You probably heard the news at this point, right? Jesus was killed about 50 days ago. But he's telling them, don't forget, Jesus died at your hands, by the way. But Jesus died and was raised, proving that he has victory over sin and death. This isn't a new plan. Jesus wasn't making it up as he goes. Jesus, verse 23 was delivered up according to the definite plan and the foreknowledge of God. God is not making it up as he goes. God has had this plan all along. Ephesians chapter 1 talks about how from the foundations of the earth the plan has been in place.

### **32:56**

But Jesus being crucified according to the plan of God being laid down as the sacrifice, the innocent man killed by the hands of lawless men, God raised him up, proving that he has victory over sin and death. Paul continues not Paul. Peter continues by pointing to the words of King David back in Psalm 16. Now verse 25, he continues says, for David says,

concerning him, I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart was glad, my tongue rejoiced. My flesh will also dwell in hope, for you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One see corruption. For you have made known to me the paths of life, and you will make me full of gladness with your presence.

### **33:48**

David had spoken these words hundreds and hundreds of years ago. And maybe there was some misinterpretation, maybe there was some misunderstanding at this point about who David was talking about, but Peter makes it abundantly clear. Let's make sure that everyone knows David in Psalm 16 was not talking about David. Verse 27 essentially says David has stated these words, you won't let me stay dead and allow my body to decay. That can't be talking about David, right? That wouldn't make any sense. Peter continues and says in verse 29, Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David, King David, that they loved and held up as such a hero, the patriarch David, he both died and was buried and his tomb is with us to this day. He's still dead.

### **34:42**

Being therefore a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, David foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, to death. He didn't stay dead, nor did his flesh see corruption. His body didn't decompose. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Seems to me like Peter makes a pretty compelling case here in these verses, doesn't he? David was saying, you will not let your servant see death. But David clearly wasn't talking about David in Psalm 16, because David said, you won't let me stay dead. Meanwhile, David's still dead, right? There's obviously a disconnect here. Peter's telling all these people in Jerusalem, by the way, his tomb's right over there. We know his body is still there.

### **35:38**

What Peter tells them is, no, he's saying, David was a prophet. David was pointing forward, speaking about someone else. David was speaking, giving words to the coming Messiah, the coming king, the one who, if you remember, you were with us maybe six months ago. We were studying 1 and 2 Samuel. We saw God give this promise to David that, David, your kingdom will never end. There's going to be come a promised one after you. And that seed from your family tree is going to establish an eternal kingdom that his kingdom will never end. The Messiah, the promised one that was promised to King David hundreds and hundreds of years earlier, David spoke, pointing forward to him. David was a prophet. He was speaking about someone else there in Psalm 16. And Peter makes the connection for us.

### **36:32**

He's saying Peter was speaking, David was speaking about the coming Messiah. Jesus was the one. Jesus would taste death, but Jesus would not stay dead. Telling them, there Jesus is alive. Jesus, in fact, spent the last 50, well, 40 of the last 50 days. It's 50 days from Jesus crucifixion at this point, at the day of Pentecost, Jesus had spent 40 of those last 50 or so days walking around in Jerusalem, being seen by the crowds. We're told in 1 Corinthians that over 500 people were witnesses that saw the resurrected Christ who had been hung up on the cross, had been hung on the tree and left for dead, had been placed in a tomb. Jesus was dead.

### **37:17**

And then we all saw him cruising around town a couple of weeks ago. Peter standing in a room full of witnesses who saw the resurrected Jesus with their own eyes. Peter wasn't making it up and they all knew it. Many of them there were saying, yeah, I saw Jesus. I was there when he showed up and he did this or did that. Peter was just simply reminding them

of what many of them already knew to be true. But now Peter makes the connection for them. In verse 36 and continuing on verse 36, he says, being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens.

### **38:08**

But he himself says, the Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstools. Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him Jesus, both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified. Peter's telling them, Jesus is alive, Jesus is the one. And there is profound significance to the fact that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. Jesus having just been exalted, taken back to heaven and placed at the right hand, the seat of authority in heaven, the right hand of the Father. Jesus was equal with God. Jesus made no secret about the fact that he was equal with God and that held every right and privilege in all of human history, that he was the one that history was pointing towards, and that is Jesus, right before he returns to heaven.

### **39:04**

He made this promise to them that he was going to send the Holy Spirit, by the way, not just Jesus promise that he made up there in Acts chapter 1, but the same promise was given to the prophet Joel generations earlier, which Peter had just explained. Peter continues and says, David isn't the one who got exalted to sit at the father's right hand. Jesus is the one. Jesus is the Lord and the Christ. That would have had significance to both the Jews and the Gentiles in the room. Because the Romans, the Gentiles, many of them that were from non-Jewish lineage, they knew the term Lord that was to refer to someone who was the master, that was the king, that was the boss, that was the head honcho, the guy in charge. Jesus was in charge.

### **39:54**

But then this term Christ also had great significance to the Jews that were there in that room, that term Christ is the same word in a different language for the term Messiah. We certainly know that there was significance in that term to all the Jews who were there that day. That same Jesus who you crucified, who you just killed, wanted dead a month or two ago. Jesus is now sitting at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. Jesus is the Lord and the Christ. You know what I love here? Peter doesn't let them off the hook. He points out their guilt as a key element of this conversation. He looks at them and he says, you killed the Messiah. You were the one who killed the Christ. You are enemies of God.

### **40:45**

You are not the people that you think you are. Peter starts to point the finger. There is bad news in this story, in this sermon. Before there can be good news in this story, Peter's looking around the room, looking at countless people that were there in that room as there were thousands of them there. I have to assume I feel safe in even guaranteeing that there were people in that room who were the same people who were in the crowd about a month and a half earlier when the crowd started to yell, crucify him. Kill him. Give us the criminal. Give us Barabbas. We want Barabbas the criminal back. Given back to us. Pilate, we want you to execute this man. Same people that a month or two earlier had screamed for Jesus' death.

### **41:31**

Peter is now looking them in the face and saying, the Son of God who you killed is the king of the universe. It's a little pointed for the crowd. It's easy to understand how people that were there in a room like that could have been cut to the quick, who were cut to the depths of their soul, like we're going to see in just a minute. But I want us to remember that as Peter looks at them and addresses them so pointedly, says, you were the ones who killed Jesus. We don't get a pass either. Those of us that are sitting here in this room, we don't get a pass because weren't there in the crowd yelling crucify Him 2000 years ago.

**42:15**

Because your sin and my sin are just as responsible for putting Jesus on that cross as those guilty Jews who were standing around in Jerusalem that day. The same plan that God had to reach into humanity and to save sinners. That included the sinners that were there in Jerusalem, and that includes the sinners that are sitting here in Anaheim Hills. The same reality is true for us. We don't get a pass just because weren't there. We killed The Messiah. Now, before we get too far and finish Peter's sermon and he just brings it home in just a minute or two, I want to bring something to our attention because this just poked me in the ribs this week for all the mature Christians that are sitting in the room.

**43:00**

One of the things that was most convicting to me this week in this entire sermon that we see from Peter is that this entire sermon, this entire defense that he offers, it's impromptu. Peter doesn't see all of this happening and go, guys, this is incredible. Wait here while I run to my study and I get my thoughts together. Peter didn't take time to prepare these comments or to write a sermon. He didn't take time to go look up the verse. Hang on, I gotta find it. I know Joel said Google hey Siri, what was that prophecy in Joel where it was talking about? Peter doesn't take time to go look up the verses. He doesn't take time to go find some Old Testament passages that might apply to their situation. Peter was prepared because Peter was well studied in the Scriptures.

**43:54**

Peter knew what the word of God had to say and he knew them well enough to speak up when the moment came. Peter, in this moment, he sees these people in the crowd buzzing around saying, why do you think, how do you think this has happened? What's going on here? Why are they speaking in these languages? And what's happening? Maybe they're drunk and Peter hears it and he goes, no, no, no, I'll tell you what's happening. And he just stands up and he starts speaking. He starts quoting verses from the Old Testament, from Joel and from Psalms, all these different places. Peter certainly, please don't downplay this. Peter certainly was empowered and enabled by the Holy Spirit in that moment to do what he did. But here's just something that I've seen for myself.

**44:36**

When we read the scriptures regularly, when we memorize Scripture and hide God's Word and our heart, when we are regularly growing in our faith and regularly diving into the Word of God and spending time in fellowship with God in prayer and Bible study and these different things, when we're regularly growing, God seems to have more to say in those moments, in those day to day moments of life when it seems like maybe God would have something to say about this. It seems like the more you know God's Word, the more you spend time hiding God's Word inside of you, the easier it is for the Word of God to come busting out. When those moments to share your faith come up, you're not just sitting there going, hi, God loves you. I'm going to run away now, Right?

**45:26**

Like, that's the nervous response from some of us. But when we know God's word, when we love God's word, when God is actively at work in our lives, the response that we see from Peter starts to become more common in our lives. The Holy Spirit will bring a verse to mind. Maybe he can drop it in there if you haven't ever read it and, you know, maybe some obscure verse from Haggai is going to come out of your mouth. God could certainly do that. But you know, what I've seen more often is that something that God has already allowed to sit and soak and marinate in your mind, something that you have taken the time and done the work to intentionally memorize and hide God's word in your heart. Those are the things that I see God pulling out of me.

**46:08**

Those are the things where I have an opportunity and I see, you know, in this moment that kind of reminds me of what Paul said in Galatians. Hey, that kind of reminds me of those words that Jesus said back in the book of Matthew. Hey, you know, I can't remember exactly where it's at, but the Bible talks about this. The Holy Spirit will bring a verse to mind when it applies to a situation that likely we wouldn't have known or shared without having it in us first before that moment. When we study and we fill ourselves up on Scripture, we give the Holy Spirit ammo to use. We give voice and words for the Holy Spirit to use in those moments in life when we need him to speak.

#### **46:54**

So don't just sit there and say, well, God supernaturally, just cram it into the back somewhere and hope that I'm going to get the message one day. No, no. Get to work. Keep studying. Be prepared for these moments. Because Peter was. Peter had done the work. Peter was prepared. Peter knew the word of God. And when the opportunity presented itself, Peter was able to stand up and say, guys, here's what's going on. Let me explain it to you. And it wasn't just because he was reading a transcript from the Holy Spirit. It was because God had been working in him, preparing him for that moment long before that moment ever happened. We saw a defense. We see a declaration. But then finally, at the end of our passage, we see a decision coming back to Peter's sermon, to the epic conclusion of this message.

#### **47:47**

We pick up the story, and Peter has his finger pointed squarely in every person in that crowd right up against their nose, right? Firmly and accurately placing the blame on their heads is the individuals who were there that day. They were cooked and they knew it. So what happens next? Verse 37. When they heard this, when Peter spoke the way that he did just a moment ago, when they heard this, they were cut to the heart. They said to Peter and to the rest of the apostles, brothers, what shall we do? Peter said to them, repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off.

#### **48:36**

Everyone whom the Lord God has called to Himself with many other words, he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, save yourselves from this crooked generation. So those who received his word were baptized. There were added that day about 3,000 souls. Can you imagine baptism service like, I think Jerusalem was filled. Every spot that they had a puddle, they were trying to stick people in it. That day, 3,000 people were added to their number, added to the faith that day. So what do we do with all this? I want to remind you what we talked about last week, because the crowd that was there in Jerusalem, why were they there in Jerusalem? They were there to celebrate the Jewish feast, the feast of weeks, right? The day of Pentecost was a Jewish festival that they had come to celebrate their religious holiday.

#### **49:32**

It was all these good Jewish men and women, all these good Jewish boys and girls, they were law abiding, religious, good people that were there that day. Peter's sermon doesn't let them off the hook. Peter's sermon doesn't look at them and say, well, you guys have been trying really hard and I see just all of your motives are just so wonderful. But let me just tweak this one little thing for you. Peter doesn't let them off the hook with this. Well, you're a good dude. So he doesn't do that. He doesn't let them off the hook. There are lots of people who are good people, right? There's a lot of good people in the world who are going to stand before God one day and who are going to be judged and are going to be found to not actually be good people.

#### **50:21**



When they stand before God one day and they measure themselves up. Not against whether or not they helped a friend move that one time. Not against whether or not they were kind and dropped a few bucks into that red bucket when the guy with the bell was swinging it outside those aren't the definitions of good guy, bad guy that when we stand before God says, all right, here's the standard. Perfect, be perfect like I am. Let's start to go through your life. All of a sudden we go, oh, right, we're not going to stand before God one day and try to make the defense. Well, I'm a good person. There's only one source of hope on that day. When we stand before God one day, being a nice person, being a good friend, being generous at the holidays, that's not the measuring stick.

#### **51:14**

What did Peter say to all these good religious people? Right, they were there because they were celebrating the religious holiday. They were good religious boys and girls. What did Peter say to all these good religious people on that day? He looks at them and he says, being good isn't good enough. He talked about Jesus being crucified as the sacrifice for sin. Talks about how the king of the eternal kingdom willingly died so that you could be pardoned. On that moment, on that day, when the people heard that, they were heartbroken, they were cut to their core and they wasted no time thinking it over. They didn't waste time weighing their options and considering, well, you know, Christianity's got this going for it, but I'm not sure that it's going to help me. And no, no, there was none of that.

#### **52:11**

There was no pros and cons list. There was no weighing it over. They were moved to immediate action. Peter lays it all out before them. In verse 37, we see their immediate response is Peter, apostles, what must we do to be saved? What do we have to do? Like I'm in everything you said I am in. But Peter, what do we have to do now? Peter's response was clear and simple. Verse 38, Peter says to them, repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Seems pretty simple, right? Repent and be baptized. He's saying, acknowledge, I am not in charge in my life anymore. Jesus is my king, Jesus is my Lord and my master. Repent and be baptized.

#### **53:03**

Turn away from your self-centered way of living and surrender to him. Baptism was a public declaration, is a public declaration of faith. In publicly declaring to whoever is there, to the world, my faith is not in myself. My faith is not in what I own. My faith is not in what I do. My faith is not in anything that I have accomplished. This is not about what I can do. This is about what Jesus has already done. So can I just say, as we come to the end of this, I don't know who needs to hear this, but if you're here today and your hope is in, I've been a good person. No, I go to church. I even went to youth group when I was a kid. Like at vacation Bible school. I did all the things right.

#### **53:56**

I dropped money in the plate. I serve. I do all these things. I'm a good person. If our hope is in, I do a lot of good things. It's not enough. Peter is there talking to a crowd of religious people saying, guys, it's not enough to just go sit in the temple every once in a while. It's not enough to just do a few good things. Our hope is not in us. Our hope is in Jesus. Jesus willingly laid down his life so that sinners could be forgiven. And by the way, there is not a person in the room who's not a sinner in desperate need of a savior. And the message that Peter had for them in that moment is the same message that God has for us here today. Sorry, camera people. Like, just follow me, because here we go, Right?

#### **54:53**

There are people in this room. I'm looking around, I'm looking at you, and I see people, countless people who love God. I see countless people who come to church every Sunday, who check a lot of boxes. But I also have to tell you, there are people every single Sunday

who go to church that are gonna stand before God one day, say, God, look at all the cool stuff I did for you. And he's gonna say, depart from me. I never knew you, you workers iniquity. There is a reality that just because you go to church, that doesn't mean that you know Jesus. It's the same thing that Peter was saying there that day. Guys, you're here in Jerusalem to celebrate the religious festival. You're doing the good religious thing, but it's not enough. It's not just about checking off the boxes.

#### **55:54**

It's about whether you know Jesus or not. It's about not just whether you can say a few things that sound religious. It's the question, is Jesus Lord and master and king in your life? Peter's call to them was repent and be baptized. Your life should look entirely different than it used to. And this morning, this week, as I've been studying all of this, as I've been thinking about all this, can I just tell you, this has been a hard week for me. And it's because I don't know who, but I am firmly convicted that there are people that are sitting in this room and every other church in America, every other church around the world that are doing good religious things, that don't know Jesus. And so I don't know who it is in this room that is sitting here.

#### **56:55**

I don't know what God has done or not done in your life. I don't know what your story is, because I just know that the story that you give to me, right, I know the picture that you present on Sunday morning when you come and you sing and you say the right things and you do the right things and, oh, and I'm just blessed. But is Jesus king? Is Jesus everything to you? Because that's what Peter is trying to drive home and communicate to these people. You know, I read a story this week. It was about a guy who was on vacation. He and his wife were on vacation. They were at the beach, and they would walk the beach every day, and they were out and just living life, doing vacation, right? But this man was tormented.

#### **57:41**

It was clear and obvious that as the week went on, it was just heavier and heavier. There was something on his mind. And one day he comes back after their walk on the beach and he lays down in their room and he just cries, sobbing for hours. He had been a leader in their church for years, but he didn't know Jesus. And God just punches him in the nose that week, and he gives his life to Christ and he comes back as a, it didn't say what position held in the church, but as a deacon, as a pastor, as a teacher, as a whatever he was. He comes back to church and he declares, I met Jesus this week and I gave my life to him.

#### **58:21**

And he gets baptized and he gives himself to God, and he is on fire from that point forward. Can you imagine seeing one of our deacons get up and saying, hey, I've done a lot of good things, but I don't know Jesus. One of our pastors getting up and saying, hey, I've taught a lot of good lessons, but I don't know Jesus. Church, I don't want to let this moment pass us. I don't want to let this moment just be something that we look at and we go, no, no, no. Like, it would be awkward for me to stand up now and say, I've done the church thing, but Jesus isn't my king. That would be terrifying. I can't do that. What would people say? What would people think? Can I just politely say, I don't care First Off. Second off.

#### **59:09**

I can't imagine anything other than an overwhelming celebration that you have seen the reality in your life and you have given your life to him. Church today is not about, our lives are not about doing and saying and acting the right way. Our life is about giving Jesus everything, saying, you're my king and I belong to you. There's a couple of Bible verses that I wanted to stick in and point out to you guys. Acts 4 tells us that there is salvation found in no one else. There is no other name under heaven or given among men by which we must be saved. Then Romans, chapter 10, verse 13. I forgot to stick this one in the slides, I think, but Romans 10:13. Yes, I got it in there. This was a late addition.

**01:00:12**

I couldn't remember if I stuck it in there or not. Romans, chapter 10. It said, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. That's what we're here for. That's what this is all about. It's not about saying the right things. It's not about singing the right songs. It's not about whether or not you went to Sunday school as a kid. It's not about whether you like all of that aside, good things, but not the thing. So Peter is sitting here saying today, do you know, Jesus? It's great that you come to church. It's great that you've checked a few boxes. It's great that you've done all those things. I love the fact that God has had you in church for however long you've been in church. But that's not the measuring stick.

**01:01:04**

And as Peter looked at them that day and said, you are the reason that Jesus died, they realized the truth of that statement and they were cut to the heart. And there was no more waiting for them. There was no, well, but I've got brunch plans, right? They said, what must we do? And he said, repent and be baptized, every one of you. I should have stuck the baptismal up here this week, right? We'll do one soon. But in the meantime, I'm gonna pray for us. I'm gonna stay right here until everybody else in this room is gone or done or has clearly no interest in talking to me. Because this morning, I know we don't do, like, big, high-pressure altar call things. Like, we believe that if God's at work in your life, you're gonna take a step when you're ready.

**01:02:01**

But can I just beg and plead with you this morning, Be ready today. If God is at work in Your life. If you are feeling the conviction of Holy Spirit, the work that God is doing in you, the, you know, I don't know, don't walk out the back doors. Like, I'll buy you a donut tomorrow if you need a donut. Like, I don't care if you make it over there to get your family. I'm not going anywhere. I'm going to be right here. We're going to sing. I want to invite you, if you need to just come pray. The front steps are open. Come kneel before the Lord and pray this morning. I'm going to be right here. After the service is over, you know where to come find me.

**01:02:46**

If you've got questions, if you have concerns, if you just need to talk to somebody, I would love to talk. Let today be the day. Thank you so much for being here this morning. Let me pray for us as we close out. God, I'm so thankful for the, God, you have been so generous to us. God, the message that Peter shared there on that day at Pentecost is the same message that still rings true 2000 years later, that we are the reason that the son of God was hung up on a tree and killed as an innocent man, so that guilty sinners like me could be forgiven. God, this morning, as we, God, we veer off the normal path just a little bit.

**01:03:45**

God, I pray that this morning that whoever it is that's in this room that's sitting here going, I know a lot of things, but I don't know Jesus. God, if that thought is running through someone's mind, God, let today be the day for them. Let today be the day of salvation. Let today be the moment when they step out in faith and set aside whatever fear and whatever lies and whatever reasons they're coming up with right now. To say, no, no, that would be weird and uncomfortable and I can't do that. God, today is not too late. There is a day that's too late. But today is not that day. God, do your work in this room that only you can do because we are here this morning acknowledging our need for you, acknowledging that we as sinners are not enough on our own.

**01:04:43**

God, we cannot ever stand up against your standard and try to measure up as good people. God, I am flawed and broken and so uselessly incapable of doing anything worthy of handing to you on my own. But God, let our faith not be in our works. But God, let them to be

in the works of Jesus. Let them be in the sacrifice of Jesus. God, let Jesus be our banner this morning. God do your work in this room this morning. God, we love you. We praise you as our king, as our Lord, as the Christ, the promised One who came to set sinners free. God, we love you. It's in Jesus name we pray. Amen.