

June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Pinecrest Baptist Church  
a.m.

Sermon Series: Acts Men  
Sermon #4 Title: The Miracle in the Message  
Sermon #4 Text: (Acts 2:14-36)

Adrian Rogers wrote a book several years ago he titled, "Believe in Miracles, but Trust in Jesus." – There is no doubt a crowd of people whose hearts and minds are saturated with the desire to see a miracle.

- That's why we have all kinds of people peddling miracles for the multitudes today . . .
- from back pain to toe fungus to bad breath, there is a preacher somewhere willing to sell tickets to a healing service.
- On the other hand there are those who've never seen God's divine hand move in a tangible, visible way, and therefore think – there is no such thing as divine power.

Which is why on the day of Pentecost people were confused about what they were seeing and hearing.

- When the Spirit of God descended on people in that room, and everyone around them heard their words in their own language, not a lot of people knew what to make of it.

- Which is exactly why Peter, filled with the Spirit of God, in one of the finest moments in the history of the church, preached a message that, that by the end of it, the miracle was no longer on their minds.

- The Power in the ministry did not come from What God did, but it came from what God said!

- While a world of religious people are getting ready to swallow the bait of the devil's deception, the truth is that the Spirit of God still has mighty power. And He uses that Mighty Power all of the time.

- But as we look through this text – that mighty power comes through the message to be believed, not the sights to be seen.

When the Spirit filled the disciples at that Pentecostal feast He showed us the practice of His power in the lives of His people that day.

- When you walk through this text and realize the Spirit of God moved in Peter, the man of God, that God did three things.

### 1.) He Used his Preachers to Preach

Before we even get into Peter's sermon, we have to note what the miracle at Pentecost was . . . it was the ability to proclaim the message!

- vs 11 – the hearers said, "we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God."

(The Purpose of the Work of the Spirit of God is not to do God's Wonders, but to proclaim God's Word)

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:21 – “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

3 verses earlier in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1 – Paul declared, “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

- When God moved the heart of Peter, He filled the mouth of Peter.

(God has always been in the preaching business, or the “proclamation” business, and the first thing God did when His Spirit empowered His people, He employed Preacher Peter!)

### **A. The Passion in Peter’s Preaching**

1.) 4 times during Peter’s message he begged the lost to listen, and the hearers to heed!

a.) vs 14 – “Peter standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell in Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken unto my words . . .”

b.) vs 22 – “Ye men of Israel, hear these words . . .”

c.) vs 29 – “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you . . .”

d.) vs 36 – “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly . . .”

- Now note this . . . Peter wasn’t just interested in “Saying it”  
– His passion was for them to be “receiving it!”

- The Spirit filled preacher is not just interested in saying something to make noise

- Nor is he interested in callously “doing his duty” – It is in His heart for the Lost to Listen, and for the Hearers to Heed!

(I can tell you this . . . I know men that don’t care if you believe them or not, they don’t care if you heed the message or not . . . they’ve preached it, it’s up to you to whether you take it or not, I’ve done my job)

- That wasn’t Peter! Neither is it any man who is moved by the Spirit of God.

- It is the desire of every Biblical preacher to see Believers Behave, the Lost to Listen, and the Unconcerned to wake up from their selfish slumber!

- Nothing kills the spirit of a preacher than for people to yawn in the face of God, and nothing thrills the spirit of a preacher than for people to actually change their behavior to fit the Word of God.

- Jeremiah was a weeping prophet, because the people didn’t respond.

- Ezekiel found out he was just an entertainment to his audience (Ezekiel 33:32)

- Paul was willing to give up his own salvation if it would have saved Israel.

When the Lord moved the preacher to preach, the preacher had the same desire the Lord had, which was for the lost to listen, and the hearers to heed.

### **B. The People of Peter’s Preaching**

They were Jews of all stripes. – No doubt there were “religious” Jews, what we might call, “secular” Jews. There were interested Jews, there were cultural Jews, there were sight-seeing Jews, but none-the-less they were all people who

would raise their hand and say “I am a descendant of Abraham.”

- Note the list:

- 1.) men of Judea – vs 14
- 2.) all ye that dwell in Jerusalem – vs 14
- 3.) ye men of Israel – vs 22
- 4.) men and brethren – vs 29
- 5.) “all the house of Israel” – vs 36

These were the ones of that day that would say, “We are the people of God.”

- From an earthly standpoint, they were God’s chosen and carved out nation.

- From an external point of view – “They were God’s!”

(Notice this – the people the Lord preached to first, were people that said they were His.)

(Where did God send His Power? – Jerusalem! – The capitol of the Jews)

(Who would be gathered there – “the Jews”

Here is where the Spirit of God filled his New Testament preacher to preach the Word of God – To the people that already thought they were Gods!

- Furthermore, Peter didn’t wind up preaching to the unnamed multitudes generally, he preached to the unchanged multitude specifically.

- verse 23 – Peter said – “ye have taken and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”

- verse 36 – Peter said – “God hath made this same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

I said all of that to say this . . . When filled with the Spirit of God, Peter preached to those who presumed to be the people of God, and he did so passionately and specifically.

(That is when the Spirit Uses His Preachers to Preach!)

## 2.) He Used his Scriptures to Teach

When a Spirit Filled Simon Peter stood up to preach, what did he preach? – The scriptures!

All spirit-filled preaching is scripture preaching, and it always has been, and it always will be.

- Jesus said, “the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.”

- When Peter stood up to answer those mocking them, and to explain things to those who didn’t understand he used the scriptures to do the teaching.

### A. The Authority that He Speaks From

\*Note – Now you need to note true Spirit filled preaching, always preaches “from the Word” and not some heart stopping experience.

- 1.) vs 16 – “This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.” – and then he proclaims Joel 2:28-32.

- He let the scripture explain the Spirit!

- 2.) vs 25 – later on down in the sermon Peter brings up Psalm 16:8-11 – “For David speaketh concerning Him . . . and then Peter proclaimed the scripture and explained the scripture.

Every right minded, healthy hearted and clear eyed Christian knows that there is categorically nothing more important in your life than live by the Word of the Lord.

- It is how you grow in faith – “Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God” – Romans 10:17

- It is how you became a Christian in the first place – Peter himself explained this to us in his book of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:23 – “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”

- It is how you sustain your spiritual strength – “For it is written, man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth from the mouth of the Father.”

- You have no greater need, so you should have no greater interest than to hear what God has to say!

**- And when the Spirit of God moves, it points us to His Word!**

- This has always been true preaching . . .

Nehemiah 8:8 – “So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”

When spirit-filled Paul was preaching to the Jews in Rome, he used the Word of the Lord.

Acts 28:23 – “And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.”

(Now I don’t want to split hairs, and most of the time when people say this, they have no ill-intentions – But one must be very careful about “Bible-based” preaching. No one is to be preaching “Bible based sermons.” – A Bible based sermon is a sermon man made and found some scriptures to set it on. It’s

getting a sermon, or a thought and going to the Bible and find a verse to stick under it.

- Bible preaching, is when the preacher goes to it blank and without an agenda, and lets scripture do the teaching)

- Note the Authority that Peter preached from.

## **B. Note the Application that He Speaks To**

1.) vs 16 – “This is that – which was spoken by Joel.”

\*Note – The Spirit of God used the Word of God to explain the Act of God – and Gave Peter the ability to see the scriptures played out before their very eyes!

- He recognized the Bible being lived out before them!

2.) vs 25 – “For David speaketh concerning him.” – Speaking of Jesus

\*Note – The Bible is the only light by which any man rightly sees the things of the Lord, and the things of the world!

(1.) The Spirit moved Peter to shine the light of scripture upon the things they were seeing concerning Jesus.

\*Note – Many people today, “want to know who Jesus is” and they turn to the History Channel to find out! – If you want to know about the historical Jesus, do not turn to CNN, MSNBC, HLN, Discovery, History, or the BBC – you turn to the B I B L E. No man will ever rightly see Jesus, and Who He is, until they look through the lens of the Bible.

Pentecostal preaching, filled with Spirit Filled Power, was preaching that used the Bible to preach Jesus!

3.) He Used the Truth to Reach

I want you to note what happened when Peter finished preaching that message that day – verse 37 – “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the Apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do.”

- On that day, at that hour, the Spirit of God was working on both ends of the sermon – He was filling the Preacher with power, and He was sticking His sword in their hearts!

- And the people responded –

(When the preacher, preaches the Bible, the Spirit uses the Bible to convict the hearts of those willing to hear.

- There were times Paul preached, and after the crowd gave it thought, they went away in unbelief. – Not on this day – the people sensed the conviction, and sought honest instruction!

#### **A. The Truth of Their Sin – vs 22-23**

\*Note – After Peter explained the happenings around them through the prophet Joel, he went on to explain what that meant from there.

1.) “Ye men of Israel hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves know . . .” . . . “ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.”

a.) Peter pointed right straight to the heart of their blatant unwillingness to submit to the truth of who Jesus is, and what that means.

\*Note – He said, “You know! And you know you know!”

b.) They were caught by God, they were caught by the Word of God, they were caught by the preacher of God, they were caught and there was no way around it.

\*Note – There is no extension of grace until there is first an admission of guilt! –

Men often want to talk about God’s love, which is infinite – but God first deals with man’s guilt!

- The cross of Jesus is a dichotomy – “Oh, it’s a wonderful picture of God’s loving grace – AND it is! – but that’s not FIRST what it is!”

- It is FIRST a picture your unwillingness to turn away from sin, to turn away from the world, to turn away from self.

- It is FIRST a picture of your willingness to just let Him suffer so you can selfishly enjoy your own flesh!

- Peter FIRST explained the truth of Their Sin.

#### **B. The Truth of God’s Son**

1.) – He is Jesus of Nazareth

2.) – He did do many miraculous things in the eyes of the people.

3.) – He did nothing but Biblical Things – Psalm 16:8-11

As Peter expounded how this Psalm is all about Jesus, and Jesus was the fulfillment of this Psalm as foretold by David.

\*Note – He was Foretold, and Fulfilled. – He was written, recorded, and witnessed.

4.) He IS ALIVE, and He Has Ascended!

a.) read verse 32-36 –

He is LORD! – And you had better understand what that means for you!

(This is what has to resonate in the heart of every hearer, in the mind of every listener – Jesus is Lord and that means something for you and for me)

Conclusion: - Now here is Spiritual Dynamite.

- When the Spirit of God uses His Preachers to Preach, Uses His Scriptures to Teach, and Uses the Truth to Reach, notice what happened . . .

Verse 41 – “Then they that gladly received His Word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

Now don't get the idea that, that was REVIVAL – That was a HARVEST.

The Revival came the day that Jesus ascended to glory and the disciples got serious about what Jesus said!

- That's when things happen!