

Unstuck: How the Early Church Changed the World

Lesson 3

Acts 2:1-41

September 26, 2021

When the Holy Spirit Shows Up

Introduction

Statistics say that when three different people are presented with a new message, whether it's a business proposition, an exciting new venture, or the hope of the gospel, one of those will pursue it with excitement and have success. One will start with excitement but fizzle out when face with challenges. The last of the three will give an outright no.

Mark 4 gives a similar message. Jesus told of a farmer scattering seeds. Some seeds fell along the path, and birds came and ate it. Some seeds fell on rocky places and sprang up quickly, but it quickly died because the soil was shallow. Some seeds fell on thorns, becoming choked out, and still, others fell on good ground and produced a good crop.

A farmer has no control over the amount of rain in a season. But he does have control over his responsibilities and faithfulness in planting that seed. As Christians, we have a similar responsibility. We are to share the good news in season and out. We are to trust the words and results to God, yet be faithful to read the Bible so that we can be reminded of the truths we learned when the time comes. Like Peter in our passage today, we trust that the Spirit will give us the words. We trust that, even if we don't see fruit in a person's life, we know that we did all we could to share the gospel with others.

Memory verse: "Peter replied, "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."—Acts 2:38

Pray and read Acts 2:1-41. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. To what was the sound similar? (Acts 2:2)
2. What was it the believers saw? (Acts 2:3)
3. What was it they began to do? (Acts 2:4)
4. What did the crowd hear? (Acts 2:11)
5. Who is it that Peter says will be saved? (Acts 2:21)
6. What was it David said? (Acts 2:34)
7. What was Peter's reply when asked: "What are we to do?" (Acts 2:38-40)

8. After accepting Peter's message, what was their next action? (Acts 2:41)

What does the passage mean?

1. Peter was a simple fisherman before he met Jesus. How was he able to address this crowd, referencing Old Testament prophecy, and speak with such boldness? (Matthew 10:18-20; Acts 2:4)

2. Peter told them what they needed to do to be saved in verse 38. Before Jesus made a new way, how were people saved and their sins cleansed? (Genesis 15:6; Habakkuk 2:4)

3. "Those who accepted his message were baptized." This passage suggests that some did not accept this message. What was Jesus' reaction when people did not accept His message? (Matthew 19:7-12; 19:16-24; John 6:60-66)

4. Verse 37 says, “when the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Read Acts 7:54-58. What is the difference in reactions between both crowds?

Applying the passage

1. We can see the Spirit’s leading in today’s passage. We see the Spirit enable Peter to declare the gospel, and we trust that the Spirit was working in the hearts of the people listening. Is it hard for you to trust the Holy Spirit to work in your life, or to speak through you to others? Why or why not?

