

SMALL TALK

1. When have you been bold? What were you bold about?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Acts 2:1-41.** Considering Luke 22:54-62, how do you account for Peter's boldness in Acts 2?
3. Why does Peter quote from the Old Testament? What Old Testament Passages does Peter quote from?
4. How familiar were these people with the events of Jesus' life? What does Peter want people to understand about the most recent event they have witnessed?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. If someone were to ask you what it means to become a Christian, can you explain it by using Peter's answer in 2:37-39?
6. In what ways does the call to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus (turning away from all other competing loyalties and pledging your allegiance to Jesus) still present a challenge to you?

7. How does the gift of the Holy Spirit supply what you need for those challenges?

PRACTICE!

- a. Hearing and Believing: “Devote daily”
- b. Repenting: “Live Authentically”

“Know With Certainty”

Conclusion of “The Certainty” Series

Last week was such a great celebration of Jesus’ resurrection wasn’t it? Today we learn about its implications! **“What does this mean?”** and **”what do we do?”** We conclude this series at the beginning rather than at the end. What I mean by that is the **beginning of the movement** that the resurrection launched. This is described now in part 2 of Luke’s writings which is known as “Acts”. So let’s take a look at the answers to **“what does thi mean?”** and **“what do we do?”** as answered in the beginning of this movement.

Acts 1:3–5 (CSB) [Jesus] *presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.* ⁴ *While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father’s promise. “Which,” he said, “you have heard me speak about; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.”*

Now, that sounded mysterious. What will that look like? Jesus left, and they returned from the Mount of olives to Jerusalem and went to the upper room and waited not knowing how long they would have to wait, and prayed, and waited and prayed. Nothing happened for days. About a week went by. The Jewish feast of Pentecost arrived. It was now 50 days after the crucifixion which took place on the evening of the passover. Pentecost is a feast of worship celebrating their faithful God with their firstfruits from harvest. Thousands of People from the far reaches of the Jewish dispersion came from long distances in foreign countries to be there. And then it happened as promised, in God’s perfect timing.

- At first it sounded like a violent rushing wind.
- The disciples saw something like a flickering flame come and hover above the many disciples gathered. 120 human candles.

- Crowds rushed out of houses to see ???
- The disciples also went outside into the streets, and began speaking.
- The crowd heard them speaking (mysteriously and miraculously) in their own foreign languages from the distant places they had come from.

Acts 2:12 (CSB) They were all astounded and perplexed, saying to one another, **“What does this mean?”**

Peter stands up with the other disciples and he answers the crowd’s question in a speech. We will go over what he said, but at the end of Peter’s sermon, we read:

Acts 2:36 (CSB) **“Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”**

That’s today’s title, and our series theme, and yet Peter’s conclusion led to a second question!

Acts 2:37 (CSB) When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, **“Brothers, what should we do?”**

These are the two questions for us to know with certainty! **“What does this mean?”** (Acts 2:12) And **“What should we do?”** (Acts 2:37) Can any two questions be more important than these two?

Now let’s consider God’s answers to these very important questions. Peter’s answer connects what they had just witnessed to fulfillment of prophecy and what Jesus accomplished. He began by quoting the Old Testament prophet Joel.

- (2:17-18)“In the last days God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, men and women, sons and daughters, old and young...

Then Peter connected this prophecy with what Jesus accomplished.

Acts 2:22 (CSB) **“Fellow Israelites, listen to these words: This Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with miracles,**

wonders, and signs that God did among you through him, just as you yourselves know.

I. God ENDORSED Jesus PUBLICLY

- Within this crowd of thousands was a subset, that very crowd who had shouted at Jesus' trial, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"
- They had shouted that even though they had seen his miracles. Now why did they turn on him!?
 1. He claimed to be King but didn't do what they expected him to do as king.
 2. He made other claims that the leaders labeled as blasphemy and worthy of death. He claimed to be one with the Father, claiming to be God's Son, claiming authority to forgive sins, and authority over the Sabbath, to name a few.
 3. The religious leaders said he is an imposter Messiah. So, obviously his miracles were performed by powers of darkness, not God.
 4. They appeal to the Romans, unable to legally kill him because the Romans are in charge. Treason becomes the official reason for his execution. He officially was crucified for claiming to be their King.

Peter continued:

- (2:23) Though you had him killed, God had a plan.
- (2:23-24) Though you used lawless people to nail him to the cross, God raised him!
- (2:25-28) David Prophesied all about this resurrection (**Peter quoted Psalm 16, and Psalm 110**)
- (2:31) Peter concludes...

Acts 2:31-32 (CSB) ...he spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah: ...³² "God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this.

I repeat: **God endorsed Jesus publicly**; are you someone who endorses Jesus publicly?

Luke 12:8-9 (CSB) [Jesus said] "And I say to you, anyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also

acknowledge him before the angels of God, 9 but whoever denies me before others will be denied before the angels of God.

If you are not going public with your faith in Jesus, this statement should rattle your cage!

I. God ENDORSED Jesus PUBLICLY

II. God RAISED Jesus

Unlike any other faith in the world, this movement took off within 50 days of the crucifixion of its founder because the evidence demanded a verdict that he had actually risen from the dead.

Acts 2:32 (CSB) “God has raised this Jesus; we are all witnesses of this.

Acts 2:33 (NLT) Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.

- (2:33) Peter’s point: God has VINDICATED Jesus by his resurrection and he now sits with authority at the right hand of God.
- (2:33) God gave him the promised Holy Spirit to pour out on all of us as you have just witnessed!

Conclusion:

*Acts 2:36 (CSB) “Therefore let all the house of Israel **know with certainty** that God has made this **Jesus**, **whom you crucified**, both **Lord** and **Messiah**.”*

We have been talking about “**Knowing with certainty**”.

The only thing that seemed certain to them was this: “*Oh no! We are in big trouble!*” “Hearing” and “believing” alone was **bad news** until followed up by the rest of the roadmap.

This frightening declaration led them immediately to the second question:

III. “What **SHOULD** We **DO**”?

*Acts 2:37 (CSB) When they **heard** this, [that God has made this Jesus, **whom you crucified**, both Lord and Messiah]. they were **pierced to the heart** and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “**Brothers, what should we do?**”*

So far we have seen them **hear** and **believe**, but that isn't the whole roadmap to certainty. To know the good news with certainty, you need:

HEARING → BELIEVING → LIVING → KNOWING

*Acts 2:38 (CSB) Peter replied, “**Repent** and **be baptized**, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will **receive the gift** of the Holy Spirit.*

A. Repent

This is a decision to change response and it starts in your thinking but is ready to do something about it. It is a decision to agree with Jesus. All competing loyalties are dropped and your pledge of allegiance belongs to Jesus as Savior and Lord.

B. Be Baptized

This is a Covenant Ceremony, when you say “I Do”. I'll take more time to explain the covenant in a series coming soon.

C. Receive The Gift

This vindicated resurrected Jesus will pour out his power through His Spirit as you have seen in us if you too will enter into the New Covenant he established!

Just when Jesus' enemies thought they had stomped out the Jesus threat, “The Way” of Jesus has exploded into an unstoppable movement! 3,000 people were baptized that day after Peter says this!

*Acts 2:39 (CSB) For the promise is for you and for your children, **and for all who are far off**, as many as the Lord our God will call.”*

This is for all who are far off! How far off have you been? This is for you. It's a gift! Receive it. He will make you into a new person. You can know with certainty Jesus is the resurrected Savior and Lord. This

is what you should do too! If you have heard, and believed. If you have not already done so, repent, be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. We are taking sign ups today! Start with Jesus!