



### Message #5

## “GO & TELL: THE FIRST CHRISTIAN SERMON”

Acts 2:14-41

*Remember, If you want to hear, or watch, the message presentation again, you can catch up with the recording of the sermon each week on our Faithlife site - <https://sermons.faithlife.com/profile/gabbachurch>*

**WHEN:** The Day of Pentecost, about 9:00am.

**WHERE:** Jerusalem

**TO WHOM:** Jews from Jerusalem and from all over the known world (gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost).

**BY WHOM:** The apostle Peter

The coming of the Holy Spirit in the events of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13) sets the stage for Peter’s sermon here in this passage (2:14-41). At this point, it’s important to note that this sermon marks the beginning of the church’s witness in fulfillment of the commission given to the apostles in Acts 1:8.

With this sermon, Peter launches the Christian church’s testimony to the world, which states that Jesus Christ is the crucified and resurrected Lord. The message will start here in Jerusalem, but, as the book of Acts makes clear, it will continue to spread to the rest of the world.

### THE MAN

It was **Peter** who stood and addressed the crowd on this incredible occasion. Given Peter’s denial of Christ (3 times, recorded in Luke 22:54-62), this was not only significant but, perhaps, even surprising! Whilst we should not forget that Jesus did reinstate Peter (John 21), it is here that we see the presence of Peter with the other Eleven on the day of Pentecost is testament to the willingness of Christ to forgive even the worst of sinners.

**What does it mean for you, personally, that someone like Peter with his previous “history” and failings, is restored and even becomes the primary advocate for Christ?**

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Peter has felt the anguish and sorrow of his sin...and he has experienced redemption by God’s grace. This is not just Peter’s story...it is the story of every Christian. The mercy of the Lord can restore anyone. Now Peter extends that same mercy to the crowd that has gathered together on the Day of Pentecost.

### THE METHOD

There is commotion and confusion....the large crowd has gathered and, even if they did not witness first-hand the evidences of the coming of the Holy Spirit (the roaring wind, the tongues of fire, the different languages being spoken), they had heard about them and were now gathered in amazement or, at the very least, curiosity. Acts 2:13 tells us that some of the onlookers believed that the disciples were drunk.

**Verse 14** says that Peter seized the moment and, with the support of the Eleven, stood up to speak. Unlike many congregations today, the crowd that Peter addressed were eager to listen and to hear. The Holy Spirit had done an amazing job of preparing them for what was to come. They were ready to listen. And, Peter, like any good evangelist, was not going to waste the opportunity.

**Do you go to church ready to listen? Do you ask God by Hi Spirit to prepare your heart to receive? What things seem to get in the way, or distract you, from being a ready listener?**

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It is important for us to note how quickly Peter points his listeners to Scripture. Of course, his listeners were Jews who would have been familiar with the OT Scriptures being quoted...and Peter uses the words of God through the prophet Joel to clarify that the people were not drunk but, instead, it was evidence that God was fulfilling His promises of old. (Peter's quoting sections of Joel 2 was not the only time in his sermon that he cited Old Testament passages...he also referred to Psalm 16 and Psalm 110.)

However, the best way to understand the significance of Peter's message is not through the OT predictions but through the New Testament fulfillment...not through Joel but through Jesus. Indeed, Peter does not spend time trying to explain the OT imagery of these passages, but quickly turns his focus to Jesus. Peter's sermon is direct and demonstrates the fulfillment of God's promises in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

### **THE MESSAGE**

Even though Peter was addressing a crowd of Jews in a unique situation, his message still presents the essential elements of salvation (**kerygma**) that anyone needs to know and respond to in order to be saved. The main points of his message could be summarized as follows:

- The gospel concerns the life of Jesus Christ (2:22)
- The gospel affirms the crucifixion of Christ as part of God's redemptive plan (2:23)
- The gospel affirms the resurrection of Christ as He triumphed over sin and death (2:24)
- The gospel confirms the lordship of Jesus Christ (2:36)
- The gospel affirms that forgiveness is found in Christ alone (2:38)

The crowd Peter was speaking to were very religious people. They knew the OT Scriptures. They were observers (and doers) of the Law. And yet they were not saved.

**Do you see any parallels between Peter's audience and a contemporary one?**

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**Do you think there's a difference between being "religious" and being "spiritual"? Explain.**

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### **THE RESPONSE**

**How did the people respond to Peter's clear proclamation of the truth about Jesus and the truth about themselves (vv.37-41)?**

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The Holy Spirit was powerfully active on the occasion of the first Christian sermon. The people, hearts convicted, cried out asking "WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED?"

Peter replied: **REPENT** and be **BAPTISED**.

We demonstrate true **repentance** by a genuine hatred of sin with a Spirit-empowered desire to never engage in that sin again and a Spirit-driven determination to obey Jesus instead.

We get **baptised** as a demonstration (a visual and public declaration) of our salvation. Baptism is not a prerequisite for salvation...but it is an important step of obedience and witness for the follower of Christ.

The response to the first Christian sermon was the birth of the Christian church and movement.

**3,000 people were transformed from being a "mission-field" to being "missionaries". What are you?**

**What do you find most difficult/challenging in sharing your faith with others?**

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**Have you ever had the opportunity to be used of God in the process of someone else becoming a follower of Jesus? How did it happen? How did you feel?**

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**God's Spirit empowers God's people to preach God's Word in order to proclaim God's gospel.**