

Knowing Jesus & Making Him Known

Selections from Acts 2:1-41

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Background

With the start of a new year comes a renewing of our curiosity for what's to come -- but also our fear for what might happen. Change is on the horizon, and soon that horizon will be our present reality -- are we ready? Join us this Sunday as we launch a new mini-series that will help us replant our feet in the values that have defined PBCC throughout its history. There is no better time the beginning of the year to get our footing for all that is to come!

Sermon Text: Acts 2:1-41 (NIV)

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" 13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 " 'In the last days, God says,

*I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.*

*18 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

*19 I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

*20 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.*

*21 And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

22 "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

25 David said about him:

*" 'I saw the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.*

*26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will rest in hope,*

*27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead,
you will not let your holy one see decay.*

*28 You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.'*

29 "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

*" 'The Lord said to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand
35 until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet."'*

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 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. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday questions

- a. Looking forward, discuss the unknowns/anxieties you have for 2024. How did the sermon on Sunday speak into your approach to these things?
- b. Of the four family values, which one excites you the most?
 - What Biblical text would you refer to for that value?
 - How do you currently live out that one value? What does this tell you about how God has gifted you?
- c. The people who heard Peter’s sermon *“were cut to the heart”* (v 37). Eugene said this would be similar to the post-modern saying, getting “wrecked by God.” Where in your life have you been “wrecked by God”? Explain.
- d. As Eugene said, knowing Jesus is all about relationship, not facts. How are you currently fostering your relationship with Jesus? How has that changed over your lifetime?
- e. In 2024, Eugene encouraged us to “plant ourselves in the mission of making Jesus known.” Name a specific way/place you plan to make Jesus known this year.