

Marks

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual
Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the
Church

of Discipleship

February 19, 2023

Day 1: Acts 2:22-24

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs which God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know-- this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it."

This message is addressed to the whole world. The Jews that were in Jerusalem were from all over the Roman world. The wonders and signs done by Jesus were actually seen by some of them but they refused to believe. In today's world there are still many signs that God is present but still people refuse to see them. It is our prayer that God will open the eyes of all around to see the mighty works of God. God is not unwilling to do great things but we are unwilling to see them.

Question: Can you remember (without looking at Luke) 3 to 4 mighty works that Jesus did?

Challenge: Do some research in Luke to see who actually crucified Jesus and who brought the charges against Him?

Scripture: Acts 2:22-41

Day 2: Acts 2:32-33

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear."

The message of Good News and the messenger were the same. The only way to fully communicate to people was through a person. This Jesus not only taught and did wondrous signs but also defeated death. The Resurrection was witnessed by many but the evidence that was being witnessed by the crowd was the Holy Spirit (that part of God that is present in the world after Jesus left). People can, over time, forget the historical Jesus but the Holy Spirit cannot be forgotten because of the continuing signs that are done through the Spirit.

Question: Which one of the Disciples actually saw the Resurrection (Luke 24:1-12)?

Challenge: On Pentecost what was the effect of the Holy Spirit that Peter is referring to? (Acts 2:1-12)

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

Day 3: Acts 2:36

Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

"God made him Lord" means Jesus rules as David ruled over Israel. The term "Christ" referred to Jesus being the one who can save the people from their sins. Peter shows that the people did not recognize who Jesus was and therefore killed Him. This theme of not recognizing Jesus took place during His life (He came unto His own and His own did not recognize Him - John 1:11).

Question: What do you think the difference is between Lord and Christ and Jesus?

Challenge: What do you think of the statement found in John 11:49-50? Is your opinion different if it is someone else besides Jesus?

Scripture: Luke 23:1-49

Day 4: Acts 2:37

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

In the case of the listeners to Peter's message they saw that they did something very wrong and were now afraid of the consequences. Today we need to hear that we have sinned and that by not accepting Jesus as Lord (remaining neutral) we are again denying Him and rejecting Him. What we do today that is wrong is that we stay neutral and think everything is OK. The Bible teaches that we cannot be neutral; we will either serve God or the powers of evil (Matthew 6:24).

Question: What do you think the phrase "cut to the heart" means?

Challenge: When was the last time you had to ask the question, "what should I do?"

Scripture: Acts 4:5-14

Day 5: Acts 2:38-39

And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him."

The solution to the problem of "what shall we do" is to reject evil by accepting Jesus as Lord. We make a commitment to turn our will and life over to God. We then are forgiven and feel a new connection to God. This new connection to God has benefits not only to the person but to their whole family and future generations. As more and more people accept Christ as Lord the world becomes a better place to live and this helps our children.

Question: Have you been Baptized? Do you know when and where and the details of the day?

Challenge: How can we tell if someone has received the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Scripture: Romans 10:1-13

Day 6: Acts 2:40-41

And he testified with many other words and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

The response to the early Christian message was dramatic. A lot of people came to believe and were baptized. This caused the religious rulers of the day to be concerned that their hold on the people would slip. In today's world, revival always caused concern among the established religious bodies but God's Spirit will not be contained. If the current Church is not proclaiming the Word, God will find a way to get the Good News of Christ to the world. We will either help or be in the way and if we are in the way we will be blown down.

Question: What is the largest group you were ever in?

Challenge: Write down what you think was crooked about the generation.

Scripture: Romans 6