

Background: Pentecost (see Jeff's notes from last week)

Baby Metaphor:

Let's pick up the baby and look at her. (If you want to hold your bible like this, its ok. Whatever helps you get into the metaphor. Cause that's what we do when someone hands us a baby.)

If you have a physical or digital copy of God's word find Acts 2:41.

Slide 1 - Acts 2:41

Isn't she large? Don't get me wrong, she is beautiful too and so unique: diverse: multi-ethnic, multiple personalities:) but she is 3,000 plus 120(Acts 1:15) souls big. Are you wowed? (ref. to my nephews and sister n law) I hope to help us get a sense of how amazing and miraculous the infant church was considering the change of heart that took place between Crucifixion and Pentecost.

What happened that their beliefs, attitudes, and actions concerning Jesus of Nazareth radically changed?

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom **you** crucified." (Acts 2:36)

- Peter attributed the death of Christ to "the crowds."
- Seven weeks earlier you were shouting in triumphant voices, "crucify Jesus, give us the insurrectionist and murderer Barabbas" and now you are emotionally appealing to Jesus' disciples for a proper response to Jesus as LORD & SAVIOR

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

- *literally extremely sorrowful and troubled.*

How did that happen? One of the Three Thousand would have had to....

1. Have a supernatural experience that could only be explained by the scripture.
 - *why supernatural? cause us to question our presuppositions and hypothesis.*
 - *why explained by scripture? would be crucial b/c you are Jew not a GK philosopher. Extra Biblical sources show and even the NT narrative shows that first century Judaism revolved heavily around the Synagogue and the reading and interpretation of the OT.*
2. Received a rational and satisfying explanation from scripture to convince us that the messiah had come.
 - *why rational & satisfying? make sense, match up with reality — — couldn't be nonsensical or even only mysterious, a radical change in behavior requires more.*
 - *messiah?*
3. You would have to have explained from scripture how Jesus of Nazareth was the messiah, the Lord and Savior.
 - *this belief would have been the most amazing.*

That would be the only way if we were one of the 3,000 Jews or Jewish Converts that your attitude and thinking could change so radically in a matter of weeks between Passover festival and Pentecost. And that was exactly what happened.

#1 - Supernatural Experience = They heard ordinary men, Galileans for that matter, declaring the wonders of God in your own language. (Jeff taught about this last week) The experience defied reason and require an explanation.

#2 - Scriptural Explanation Acts 2:17-21

Peter took a specific scripture, an ancient prophetic word from Joel, a much quoted, much studied and interpreted Joel's words to explained their experience with the disciples declaring the wonders of God in other languages.

Combo of experience & scriptural interpretation was powerful b/c

1. A faithful Jew had been taught since they were a young child that Joel about the messiah. *Illus. ~ similar to my experience with Revelation interpretation during the height of the Cold War.*
2. Joel's (& other OT) prophecies connected the out pouring of the HS with the coming of the messiah.

Let me give you a little peak behind the scene, Peter knew what you didn't know because Jesus had revealed these very specific truths to him and the other disciples during the period of time between his resurrection and ascension. (i.e. see Jeff's message where he talked about Jesus did in that 40 day period, convincing proofs and teaching about the kingdom)

Luke 24:27 - "And beginning with Moses and all the prophets he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

Transition to #3 Jesus as the messiah - You would either have to deny what you saw and heard or you would have to discount the word of God. There is no way at least 3K of you could do this so you are now really listening. Peter has the attention of your soul.

#3 - Jesus as the Messiah Slide 4 - Acts 2: 25-28 & Acts 2: 34 & 35

Peter boldly declared that Jesus of Nazareth, was the messiah who had come. And again Peter interprets the scripture in such a way to "blow them away", He used the words of King David, the icon of Jewish independence, the persona of what their messianic to show them that the reality of Jesus resurrection proved Jesus was the Messiah.

David speaks about the messiah but David was not the messiah b/c he was dead and buried.

Acts 2: 29-33

Transition

Now you can just be ole 21st century American you for a few minutes and lets ask the same question the Jews (and Jewish converts) asked in response to Jesus, "What shall we do?"

1. God has worked supernaturally in world over and over again.
 - Bangladesh conversions
 - Hmong
 - Sarper's dream
 - Joby's Chinese roommate.
 - Keith Green
 - Billy Graham
 - Olive Garden Ashley's story.
 - Kimberly's/Emily's stories.
2. The world knows it is need of a savior.
 - Christianity answers worldview questions (Why we are here, what's the problem, what's the solution, etc.)
 - provides a basis for morality and value for human life.
3. We have heard that the scripture explains that Jesus was and is the messiah.

Will we be "cut to the heart?"

Offered a variety of responses:

1. Raise your hand.
2. baptism
3. Come excited