

Thornbury Baptist: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: 19/2/2017

Speaker: Paul Ferguson

Title: When the Spirit Comes - Conversion

Introduction: Amongst the amazing things that happened on that first Pentecost, signs, wonders, and the praises of God heard in the languages of the gathered pilgrims, perhaps the most amazing was the wholesale turning of three thousand to God in repentance. This happened in response to the preaching Peter, who, emboldened by the gift of the Spirit declared to the crowd that the name of the Lord on which people must call to be saved is Jesus. This was a wonderful and shocking even when one considers that these people listening to Peter were devoted Jews gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate Shovout, Pentecost.

Review: (invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review)

Read: Acts 2: 21 - 41

Reflect:

- A festival with several names. Pentecost is a Greek word which means fifty days. This is the period between the Passover and Pentecost. Shovout, the Hebrew word meaning periods of seven weeks. Firstfruits, the festival that recognized that the first and best of everything comes from and belongs to the Lord. Also, this feast was the occasion on which the Jewish people remembered the giving of the Law, the ten commandments. Reflect on these readings and consider the connection between the Jewish festival and the outpouring of the Spirit. Lev 23: 15 - 16; Ex 13: 2; Ex 20; Jer 31: 33.

What is the name of the Lord?

- Peter quotes Joel 2: 32 - “**And whoever calls upon the name of Lord will be saved.**” In Hebrew it was “whoever calls on the name of YHWA will be saved.” Peter does a good Jewish midrash (biblical exposition), in fact the passage we are studying shows Peter unpacking verse 21. His sermon

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond

unpacks who this Lord is that can save. He makes his case from the scriptures. Read Ps 16: 9 - 11 and then Ps 110: 1 and then the Acts passage again. What are two key thoughts Peter draws from scripture that lead to the identification of the name of the Lord?

How do you call on his name?

- V 38 Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
- Peter was asked “what shall we do” Peter said repent and be baptised.” This was a very radical thing for Jewish people to be baptised. They had their ceremonial washing that they would do as part of their worship at the temple. But this was something quite different it was a once for all change of heart and direction. He calls them to repent. The word was not uncommon, it means to change your mind or go in a different direction.

But in this context, it has a weightier sense to it. It is much more akin to the OT prophets calling the people to return to God. To turn away from sin and in humility and sorrow. Read Jeremiah 3: 12. What does this passage tell us about the nature of repentance and the character of God? Is the call to repent a gift of grace or a harsh demand? How do you feel?

- Peter was calling the people to be baptised in the same way a gentile would have to be baptised if they were becoming Jews. In other words he was saying to his “fellow Israelite”. To receive forgiveness and the gift of the spirit only comes from whole hearted commitment to the Lord, whose name is Jesus. God has no grandchildren, all of us have to come to God with faith in Christ. Reflect on the danger of allowing religious faith or tradition to get in the way of heart felt committed faith in Christ.

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don’t feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond

The way repentance is expressed.

- The question that they asked “what shall we do to be saved?” we hear it elsewhere in Luke/Acts. The rich young ruler. Luke 18. “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Sell everything you have and come and follow me. - ouch The disciples. Luke 12: 33; 14: 33. **In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.** This is rub of discipleship. The call is to surrender our resources (reflect on the festival?) to God for the sake of the kingdom. Everything you have and are you want to use for God ‘s purposes.
- Our Christian lives are sometimes anaemic because we have never really wrestle with this fundamental issue. What do feel about this statement? What might it mean for you to give your all, whole hearted commitment, for the sake of Christ and his Kingdom?

Please prayer

Pray for one another for grace to repent and follow Jesus fully.

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes. Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect - Respond