



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

MESSAGE TITLE: THIS IS WHAT THAT MEANS

SPEAKER: ALEX LESSLER

DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): Acts 2:14-47

Last week, Pastor Brad talked about how the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples on the Day of Pentecost. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues. People who saw and heard them started asking, "What does this mean?" This week, Pastor Alex focuses on the explanation that Peter gave to the people and how they responded.

Peter responded to the people in Jerusalem by preaching the first gospel sermon. He referenced two important Old Testament passages from the book of Joel and from Psalms to demonstrate that Jesus' life and work had brought about something new. The Day of the Lord was here. God had finally sent his promised Messiah. The people are "cut to the heart" and ask Peter what they should do. His answer centers on repentance and turning to God. They should no longer live like those around them. The last part of the chapter illustrates for us how these first converts lived in those early days of the church as their hearts were changed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What is one kind or generous thing that you have seen a person, organization, or company do during this pandemic?
2. Is there a speaker, sermon, or event that has significantly changed your life? What or who is it and how has it changed you?
3. What is the first thing that comes to you mind when you hear the word "church"?
3. What was your high/low for this past week (or since your group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Which disciple stood up to address the crowd? How did he explain what was happening? Which Old Testament prophecies did he refer to?

cont.

CONTINUED:

2. How is Jesus described and what claims are being made about him in Acts 2:22-35? Why do you think this claim would have been significant, comforting, or challenging to the crowd?
3. Based on this passage, what did this crowd already know about Jesus?
4. What does the text tell us about how the message impacted the hearts of the crowd? How did the crowd respond to the message? What were they told to do?
5. How did the first believers spend their time? What did they do after they accepted Jesus and were baptized?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Peter's OT quotes show that from the beginning, Jesus was God's plan and God has been in control the whole time. Do you think people would/do find this idea comforting or challenging? Why?
2. Acts 2 contains the first presentation of the Gospel message by Peter to a Jewish audience. He uses things the people are already familiar with (Jesus, the Scriptures, the idea of a Messiah) to explain what Jesus has done for them and what they should do in response. How have you seen people do this same thing today? What are good examples and what are examples of people doing this poorly?
3. What do people generally know about Jesus today? What facts about him are common knowledge? How might these facts be helpful in talking to others about Jesus? How might they be confusing?
4. How do people respond to the Gospel message today? How is what they are asked to do similar and/or different from what Peter tells people to do in this passage?
5. What is similar and what is different about how the first believers spent their time and how Christians today spend their time? What are the reasons for the differences?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What about your life would be different if you really trusted and believed that God has a plan for your life and that he's been working since the beginning of time to save you?

cont.

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2. How do you respond to the message Peter delivers? What touched your heart or spirit as you read it? How would you present the same message that Peter does in a way that would be relatable to people today in your own words?
3. How has Jesus been described to you in the past? What made an impact? What didn't? Have you ever described Jesus to a friend who wasn't a believer? How did this go? What would you do again and what would you do differently?
4. How did you first respond to the Gospel? What were you told to do afterward? What would you tell someone who had just accepted Jesus? What words of advice would you give them for next steps? What next steps do you need to take in your faith?
5. What part of the description of how the first believers lived is most encouraging/appealing to you? What is most challenging? How could these activities fit within your life now?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Is God calling you to tell someone about Jesus? Pray that he would give you an opportunity (and the words) to have that conversation. How can your group pray for and support you?
2. How do you need to respond to Jesus today? What is one thing you can do today to draw closer to him? Share your answer with your group and let them know how they can encourage you.
3. What is one thing you can do in the next week to live more like those first believers (even while you're sheltering in place)? What is one thing your group can do in the next week to live more like the first believers?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.

