

SERMON NOTES

Dr. David A. Renwick -- September 12, 2010

Founding Fathers and Mothers: "First Church, Jerusalem"

Isaiah 2:1-6, Acts 2:37-47

I. Background

A. Acts 1: Four Principles that Bound the Church together

1. **Resurrection** – Jesus is Alive
2. **Mission** – Jesus is continuing his Mission – through us!
3. **Powerlessness** – We have no power in ourselves to fulfil the task.
4. **Power** – God’s power is available by the Holy Spirit in us and in the church to do the job!

B. Acts 2: Two Focal Points to Early Christian Preaching

- . . . Not Jesus’ Life, But his Death and Resurrection
1. **Jesus’ Resurrection revealed** God’s affirmation that Jesus was who he claimed to be: The Messiah, the Son of God!
 2. **Jesus’ Death revealed** the lengths to which God’s love would go to restore our relationship with God.
In his death, Jesus carried in his body every barrier between us and God – every sin, weakness or failing – and threw it into hell!

II. Simon Peter’s First Sermon

- A. Peter: “You caused his death!”
- B. Crowd: “What shall we do?”
- C. Peter: “Repent and be Baptized” (2:38)

1. “Repent” – A Change in Relationship With God

- a. Not just “Sorry”
- b. = ‘*metanoia*’ (Greek)= ‘*a change of mind*’
= Turning back to and moving in God’s direction
= ‘Marrying’ God!
. . . ‘do you promise to forsake all others, and keep yourself only unto God as long as you both shall live’?

2. “Be Baptized” – A change in relationship with Others

Baptism represents *God’s saving power* that brings us into a new community (nation, people, family, team)

see 1 Corinthians 10:2 “*Our ancestors were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea*”

Crossing the Red Sea was a ‘baptism’-- an act of *God’s saving power* -- signifying for Israel:

- i. The end of slavery& the beginning of freedom
- ii. The end of an old life & the beginning of a new life
- iii. The end of being a rabble & the beginning of being “God’s People.”

III. Response to Peter’s Sermon

- A. 3000 did what Peter the Preacher said!
- B. “First Church,” Jerusalem was formed
- C. God Gave them
 - a. Joy in their own lives (2:46)
 - b. Effectiveness in fulfilling Christ’s Ministry
(signs and wonders were done through them 2:43; the Lord added to their numbers day by day, 2:47)
- D. as they Fulfilled their Baptismal Commitment (Acts 2:42-47)
 1. To Gather together – ‘*day by day they devoted themselves to fellowship and the breaking of bread*’
 2. To Grow together – ‘*they devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and prayers*’
 3. To Be Generous together – ‘*they sold their possessions and distributes as any had need*’

IV. Our Response?

1. To Gather together
– **If not every day – what about every week?**
2. To Grow together –
-- **If not all the time, what about 2-3 hours per week** (2% of our waking life)?
3. To Be Generous together –
-- **If not 100% of what we have, what about 10%?**
See Jesus: Matthew 23:23 . . . (tithing) – “this you ought to have done without neglecting justice and mercy”