

- I. My Notes ... WWC message 10/11
- II. Series: A Disciple's Life – Our Daily Journey
 - Title: Effective Communication
 - Text: Acts 2:14-36
 - Quote: There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured by old-fashioned preaching. Jack Hyles (Pastor, Author)
- III. Introduction
 - Last week I wrote about the communication breakdown we are dealing with today. It's the same kind of misunderstanding that took place in the first part of Acts 2. I will say it again; communication is essential in any relationship. First, our communication with the Lord and a close follow-up is communication with others around us. Effective communication builds bridges and brings transformation to lives, circumstances, and challenges that we face. I am going to share a quick story that I heard some time ago ... In the early 1900s, missionary William Cameron Townsend traveled to Guatemala bringing Spanish Bibles with him. He was passionate, prepared, and convinced he was bringing the gospel to the unreached. But one day, a local Kaqchikel man challenged him:

"If your God is so great, why doesn't He speak my language?"

Missionary Townsend was shocked. He realized that while he had the message, he hadn't truly communicated it. The Spirit stirred something deeper in him—not just to preach, but to translate the Bible into the heart language of the people. He spent years learning Kaqchikel, eventually founding Wycliffe Bible Translators, which has since helped bring Scripture to thousands of languages worldwide.
 - Today, communication is more important than ever. With technology we can talk to anyone in the world in seconds. That makes it necessary to be understandable, to as my brother has often said – "know your audience" ... With the tools we have available, we should be going to great lengths to first understand others and then be understood ourselves. God knows who we are and wants us to know Him. **Psalm 46:10** – "*Cease striving and know that I am*

God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” (NASB).

God is telling David, He is telling us, to stop trying to do and take the time to develop an intimate bond with Him. Speaking to Jeremiah, God said, “*I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.*” (Jeremiah 1:5 NLT).

God knows us and His purpose is to have a deep connection with His creation (read Psalm 139, John 10). This is done through communication.

- Last week we began looking at a special morning in Jerusalem. Something far greater than sunrise had broken through. The Spirit of God had descended like fire, and ordinary men were speaking in languages they’d never learned. Confusion rippled through the crowd—some were amazed, others mocked. And then Peter stood up.
- Things were different, circumstances had changed, the Disciples had been left with a calling – a purpose. Peter stepped forward, not the denier and guilt riddled failure. Not Peter the fisherman. Peter the witness. Peter the preacher. Peter, now empowered by the Holy Spirit, emboldened by the promised presence of the Guide and Comforter, stepped forward to explain what God was doing.

In this portion of Luke’s letter to Theophilus, we hear the first sermon of the Church. It’s not polished. It’s not safe. It’s not seeker sensitive. It’s Spirit-led. Peter doesn’t offer comfort before conviction—he offers truth before transformation. He connects prophecy to present reality, Scripture to Spirit, and history to hope.

- This passage is more than a sermon—it’s a summons. It calls us to recognize who Jesus truly is: not just a teacher, not just a miracle-worker, but the crucified, risen, and exalted Lord. It invites us to move from confusion to clarity, from curiosity to commitment, from mockery to mission.

So today, we’re not just studying Peter’s words. We’re stepping into the moment. Because the same Spirit who empowered Peter is here. The same Jesus he proclaimed is alive. And the same question echoes in our hearts: What shall we do with this Jesus?

IV. The Response

- The Disciples were being misunderstood and mocked (remember verses 12 and 13). This was going to be addressed.
- **Acts 2:14-36 BSB**

14Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, lifted up his voice, and addressed the crowd: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen carefully to my words. 15These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It is only the third hour of the day! 16No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

*17‘In the last days, God says,
I will pour out My Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.*

*18Even on My menservants and maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

*19I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.*

*20The sun will be turned to darkness,
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the great and glorious Day of the Lord.*

*21And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord
will be saved.’*

22Men of Israel, listen to this message: Jesus of Nazareth was a man certified by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. 23He was delivered up by God’s set plan and foreknowledge, and you, by the hands of the lawless, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. 24But God raised Him from the dead, releasing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for Him to be held in its clutches.

*25David says about Him:
‘I saw the Lord always before me;*

because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

*26Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
my body also will dwell in hope,*

*27because You will not abandon my soul to Hades,
nor will You let Your Holy One see decay.*

*28You have made known to me the paths of life;
You will fill me with joy in Your presence.'*

29Brothers, I can tell you with confidence that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that He would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31Foreseeing this, David spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did His body see decay.

32God has raised this Jesus to life, to which we are all witnesses.

33Exalted, then, to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34For David did not ascend into heaven, but he himself says:

'The Lord said to my Lord,

"Sit at My right hand

35until I make Your enemies

a footstool for Your feet."

36Therefore let all Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!"

- Peter spoke with clarity, so that a crowd who didn't understand, who had rejected Jesus just a short time ago, would hear the truth in a way that they could understand it. This brought a revival to Jerusalem. A revival is a reawakening and restoration of one's spiritual life. The results of a revival are a renewed focus on the Lord God. Peter spoke sincerely, from Scripture, and we will see that this truthful communication brought transformation into the lives of many.

V. Taking a Stand

- Look again at vs. 14 ... *"Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them ..."* (CSB).

- It appears that Luke is telling us that the others determined Peter should be the one to speak. He was their “leader” according to Jesus.
- Henry Jacobsen (Theologian) writes about this – “He had no sermon notes, but he had two things that were infinitely more important. He had something to say, and he had the power of the Spirit.” (*The Acts: Then and Now*, Victor Books, 1973).
- Peter brought this straight-forward, Scriptural, truthful, Christ focused message for all to hear. He broke it into 2 main parts and indirectly asked those listening, *What are you going to do with Jesus?*
- This shows how God uses ordinary people to do and say extraordinary things as they willingly yield to the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit.
- Can you say life lessons?

VI. The Message

- I would say that the crowd’s confusion with this supernatural circumstance and the skepticism believers deal with today is quite similar. Doubting that faith in Jesus Christ or any kind of belief for that matter is reasonable is common today.
- Peter begins by telling the crowd that they are not drunk … it is 9 in the morning. A common time for prayer and worship in life during that time. He goes on to say that the Prophets foretold this.
- Referring to Joel chapter 2. Joel prophesied to the people of Judah (the Southern kingdom) and called them to repent as they were facing a tough time (a plague of locusts). In this call to repentance, the Prophet spoke of the judgment of God and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.
- Joel 2:28-32 prophesies the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on all people, signifying a time of spiritual renewal and salvation. The passage emphasizes that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved, highlighting God's desire for inclusivity and accessibility to all. This promise is rooted in the context of God's judgment and restoration, as seen in the preceding chapters, where the people are called to repentance and seek divine guidance. The outpouring of the Spirit is a profound act of God's grace, indicating a new era of spiritual connection and intimacy with Him for all individuals, regardless of their social status or background.

- Fast forward some 800 years and we see the beginning of “the day of the Lord.” (This is a reference to end times and these days started after Jesus ascended to Heaven). And part of the prophecy in the book of Joel says, *“28 It will come about after this, That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. 29 “Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” (Joel 2:28-29 NASB)*.
- Peter references this passage to let others know that the Day of the Lord is at hand. This is something that the people in Jerusalem would have understood. It got their attention.
- After Peter had their attention, He pointed them to Jesus. He made this strong point – God can turn the worst injustice into the greatest redemption. God desires for all people to have a proper relationship with Him. The truth is that we need to own our part in this separation from the Lord. God is gracious, He understands, and He is made a way for reconciliation.
- This is what Peter was pointing to. Think about the power and depth of this message. God’s sovereignty (His ability to rule over all things for the good of His people) doesn’t erase human responsibility.
- Pay attention to what Peter is saying in verses 22 to 24. This is truth that many debate and don’t want to acknowledge. *“22Men of Israel, listen to this message: Jesus of Nazareth was a man certified by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs, which God did among you through Him, as you yourselves know. 23He was delivered up by God’s set plan and foreknowledge, and you, by the hands of the lawless, put Him to death by nailing Him to the cross. 24But God raised Him from the dead, releasing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for Him to be held in its clutches.” (BSB)*.
- Jesus came to reveal the love and grace of God – this was the part of God’s plan to redeem us. People could see this by the signs and miracles that Jesus did – it reveal the power and compassion of the Lord God. But there was more to the plan than just Jesus showing up and doing some amazing things. The Cross was part of God’s plan. A sacrifice was necessary to atone for our sin. Yes, all people are sinners – some have been redeemed by God’s grace.

- Let me take a side journey here for a moment. It's become far too commonplace to avoid talking about sin. Sin is missing the mark ... the mark is God's standard of behavior. Anything we do that gets in the way of God's principles in our lives is sin. There is a brokenness today that is evidence of man's need for a Savior. Addictions are at an all-time high, the suicide rate is as high as it has ever been (in 2023 – 1 suicide death every 11 minutes. Today, it is higher ...), mental health is an ongoing issue. The problem – man's way, serving self, has brought many so far down a path and has led to desperation. There is an answer. It's not found in man's wisdom. It is found in the hope that comes from an acknowledgement of Jesus as Lord and a relationship with Him. The evidence says, we need help – the help that can only come by the grace of God, through faith in Him.
- Peter described something David understood – the Resurrection of the Messiah. David refers to it in Psalm 16:10-11, which Peter quotes to those listening.
- This message is one that challenges people to look at the truth. It isn't about religious rituals or adherence to customs. There is a decision that must be made.

VII. Wrapping Up (for now)

- Next week we will look at what happens with effective communication.
- The sermon that Peter brought didn't end with a nicety or a kind thought. It ended with a strong declaration: "Therefore let all Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ!" This wasn't just a religious statement but a call that required a response. Peter made the point that Jesus was alive, He was there. Many of these same people had observed some of the signs and miracles that Jesus had performed. At the very least, they had heard from someone who had witnessed an event. Jesus wasn't distant, He wasn't some leader that had run His course. Jesus was alive, He had risen from the dead, and He was reaching out toward all those there.
- The crowd was cut to the heart. They didn't just admire the message—they asked, "What shall we do?" It's the same question each person must answer when confronted with the truth of who Jesus is.

- Jesus is calling – are you listening?
- Let's Pray
- Grace First, Grace Always