Acts 2:14-41

“What Does This Mean & What Do We Do?”

1. **Intro:**
   1.1. Spurgeon’s Preachers College had a tradition of giving students a text right on the spot, & had them preach it to Mr. Spurgeon & the staff. One time one student was given Zacchaeus as his subject.
   1.1.1. The student stood & said, “Zacchaeus was of little stature; so am I - Zacchaeus was up a tree; so am I - Zacchaeus came down; so will I” And he sat down.
   1.2. Here, Peter is put on the spot…but gets to deliver “The Inaugural Sermon of the age of Grace!”
   1.2.1. Peter takes the 1st match, & ignites the 1st wild fire, which covers 3000 acres, warming them with the Good News!

1.3. **Outline:** This starts with, What does this Mean? & ends with, What Shall We Do?

2. **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?** [from vs.12] (14-35)
   2.1. They had asked, What does this mean?(12), & now they were about to know!
   2.2. (15) Drunk? - This was no Distilled Spirits; this was none other than The H.S.!
   2.3. (17-21) Overview: The last days(17) means that period of time between Jesus’ 1st coming & His 2nd Coming. (The period of time in which we live today)
     2.3.1. 1st he shares about the beginning of the outpouring (17,18);
           Then about its ending (Tribulation time) (19,20).
     2.3.1.1. It’s dawning of this age, & its sunset!
   2.3.2. And, what happens in-between? → (21) “Whoever calls…”.
   2.4. So, the last days encompass: the outpouring of the H.S.; Prophecy; Visions & Dreams; Signs & Wonders; & Salvation to those who believe!
     2.4.1. Keep in mind: neither signs nor wonders, nor prophecy nor visions, nor dreams…save people!
     2.4.2. Only the gospel of Christ is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.
   2.5. Next he’ll answer: “who is the Lord?”, & “what is salvation?” from(21).
   2.6. **Peter’s 4 Point Sermon about Jesus of Nazareth!** (22-36)
   2.7. [1] Jesus Life & Ministry on earth! (22)
   2.8. He now leads them on a blood stained path, right up to Calvary!
   2.9. [2] Jesus Crucifixion! (23)
     2.9.1. (a) God’s Best! (23a)
2.9.2. Octavious Winslow nails it on the head when he said, “Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas for money; not Pilate for fear; not the Jews for envy; But the Father, for Love!”

2.9.3. (b) Man’s Worse! (23b)

2.9.4. John Stott said, “Before we can see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us!”

2.10. In summary: “I did it, my sins sent him there; He did it, His love took him there!”


2.12. (24) When death stung Jesus Christ, it stung itself to death! 😊

2.13. (29) David obviously wasn’t speaking of himself. His tomb was a tourist attraction even back then.


2.15. Note Peter’s sermon was: Simple; Scriptural (quoting Joel & the Psalm); Christ-Centered; Convicting; & Practical.

2.15.1. It started w/ What does this mean? & now ends w/ What do we do?!

3. WHAT DO WE DO? (36-41)

3.1. Ok, how exactly does one become a Follower of Christ?

3.1.1. We learn from this group that there is a time when one is not a Christian, & then one is!

3.1.2. Something happened to this group, they moved from one position to another. They were “added” to the church. (41,47)

3.1.3. 1st they did not belong, then they did!

3.2. 3000 people underwent a complete change. Their whole position was revolutionized. Their thinking, their actions, their outlook were all changed.

3.2.1. Ok, so HOW did it happen???

3.2.1.1. It wasn’t the preaching of Peter (though it was incredible!)

3.2.2. It was only one thing, & it happens in every individual that has ever been saved…It is the action of the Holy Spirit!

3.2.2.1. They were cut to the heart!

3.2.3. You don’t take up Christianity. [You can take up Christian Science, You can take up & many cults. You can even join a church] But you cannot take up Christianity.

3.2.3.1. By definition Christianity is something that takes you up.

3.2.3.2. It’s not something you do, but something that is done to you.

3.2.3.2.1. It is the Power of the Holy Spirit!

3.2.4. Paul said, “you, He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,…and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He
loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),” Eph.5:1-5

3.2.5. The Spirit of God was using the Word of God & applying it to them!

3.3. The Holy Spirit 1st caused them to think!

3.4. Let all the house of Israel “know” – They were made to think.
3.4.1. Some think Christianity is brainless & thoughtless. If anything, false religion is the Opium of the masses…but not Christianity!
3.4.2. To repent one must think – because repent (metanoia) means to have a what? A change of mind!
3.4.3. The Spirit always leads people to think. (Think about: your situation, life, death, the hereafter, think about your sin, etc.)
3.4.4. The greatest trouble is that men/women go through life w/o thinking.
3.4.5. Or, they think for a moment but find it too painful, so they stop & turn to a bottle of Jack Daniels, or TV, or something…anything to forget!!!

3.4.6. And what does the Spirit make us think about? Not 1st & foremost about ourselves. News Flash: “Christianity doesn’t start with us!”
3.4.6.1. It doesn’t start with your sin, your happiness, nor your peace!
3.4.6.2. No, these people in Jerusalem were made to think about Jesus!
3.4.7. Listen to these 6 steps:

3.5. [1] We must 1st face the person of Jesus Christ - His life, His death, His res!

3.6. [2] We must own our part! “whom you crucified”
3.6.1. Peter loved them enough to tell them the truth regarding their spiritual bankruptcy!

3.7. [3] Then we must understand He is both Lord & Christ!
3.7.1. They saw they had been fighting against God & rejecting His Christ.
3.7.2. There is no greater sin than not to see any need of Jesus Christ!
3.7.2.1. Who are the greatest sinners in the world? - Those who don’t think about Christ at all!

3.8. [4] This of course leads to conviction! “cut to the heart”
3.8.1. Peter had a better aim this time! (He didn’t cut off an ear, but instead cut hearts!) [A Bleeding Savior makes men’s heart bleed! (Spurgeon)]
3.8.2. The Spirit gives a Warning, to the heart, the soul, the conscience!
3.8.2.1. Story - On March 18, 1937, a spark ignited a cloud of natural gas that had accumulated in the basement of a London, Texas, school. The blast killed 293 people, most of them children. It was because of this accident that an odor was given to natural gas. The smell became a “warning” if you smelt it!
3.8.2.2. This cutting to the heart, this conviction, this guilt is like that odor… it’s a warning of danger to come!
3.9. [5] This leads to our heart responding by asking, what shall I do?

3.9.1. “What can we **DO**”! (pray more? give more? work more?)

3.9.1.1. No! Simply follow vs.38.

3.9.2. It’s when one acknowledges, “There’s something spiritually wrong with me.” “I'm in trouble.” “I stand guilty before God.”

3.9.3. It’s when you realize, I am apart of the crooked generation! (40)

3.9.3.1. Perverse – Gk.(skolios) where we get Scoliosis “an abnormal curvature of the spine”. {winding, twisted, slanted, crooked}

3.9.4. There is nothing left to do but cry out to the Lord! “what shall we do?”

3.10. [6] This leads to obedience – to Repent & be Baptized.

3.10.1. Repent – He asks them, adopt an entirely different view about Christ!

3.10.1.1. They had already felt bitter remorse for their sin, but alone that cannot save them.

3.10.2. They must go to the next step & change what they believe.

3.10.2.1. They must believe Jesus is the Son of God & that His death & resurrection grants them new life.

3.10.3. This repentance & belief then are twin concepts (Mrk 1:15 {Jesus’ 1st teaching} “Repent, and believe in the gospel.”)

3.10.4. Baptism – “the primary outward, visible action that validates the inward decision to follow Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior.”

3.10.4.1. Peter was saying, if you’re serious about receiving remission of your sins, you should prove it by being baptized immediately.

3.11. Well, that’s the 6 things I found.

3.12. (39) Have you shared this w/your children?

3.12.1. I read a story about a 4 yr-old named Amanda who went to the doctor's office with a fever. The doctor looked in her ears and said, "Who's in there? Donald Duck?" She said, "No." He looked in her nose and said, "Who's in there? Mickey Mouse?" Again she said, "No." He put his stethoscope on her heart and said, "Who's in there? Barney?" Amanda replied, "No, **Jesus** is in my heart. **Barney** is on my underwear!"

3.12.2. Q: Have you shared this promise to your children?

3.13. To all who are afar off – That’s us! – Is that you today?

3.13.1. Q: Has the Holy Spirit cut your heart this morning?

3.13.2. Q: Are you ready to make a confession, w/o any reservations, & cast yourself entirely upon God’s mercy & Love?

3.13.3. **Isaac Watts** sang, Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my **soul**, my life, my all! 😊

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1 Peter Wagner; The Acts of the Holy Spirit; pg.81
3.14. Invite up worship team:

3.14.1. Romulo has a new song for us (Chris Tomlin, *Heart of Mine*), but especially for those cut to the heart this morning, & would like to receive salv.

3.14.1.1. Oh heart of mine, why must you stray? From one so fair you run away
And one more time you have to pay
The heavings of needless shame
Oh heart of mine, come back home
You've been too long out on your own
And He's been there all along Watching for you down the road
So come home running
His arms are open wide
His name is Jesus
He understands
He is the answer
You are looking for
So come home running
Just as you are
Oh child of God, so dearly loved
And ransomed by the Savior's blood
And called by name, "daughter" and "son"
Wrapped in the robe of righteousness

3.14.2. Invitation:

3.15. (41) **3000 spiritual newborns!**

3.15.1. This means great responsibilities, & a lot of work.

3.15.2. We'll talk about the **Best way** for these newborns to get grounded in the Lord… **next week!**

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**Fray Song (How To Save A Life)** - According to lead singer and songwriter **Isaac Slade**, the song was **composed and influenced** by his experience while working as a mentor at a camp for troubled teens:

One of the kids I was paired up with was a musician. Here I was, a protected suburbanite, and he was just 17 and had all these problems. And no one could write a manual on how to save him.

Slade claims that the song is about all of the people that tried to reach out to the boy but were unsuccessful. As Slade says in an interview, the boy's friends and family approached him by saying, "Quit [the problem behavior] or I won't talk to you again," but all he needed was some support.

The verses of the song describe an attempt by an adult to confront a troubled teen. In the chorus, the singer laments that he himself was unable to save a friend because he did not know how.