

*“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 1<sup>st</sup> match, & ignites the 1<sup>st</sup> 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’ 1<sup>st</sup> coming & His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming. (The period of time in which we live today)
  - 2.3.1. 1<sup>st</sup> 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!”
- 2.11. **[3] Jesus’ Resurrection!** (24-32)
- 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.
- 2.14. **[4] Jesus’ Exaltation!** (33-35)
- 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. **1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> & 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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’ 1<sup>st</sup> 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.”<sup>1</sup>
- 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!** 😊

<sup>1</sup> 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 heaviness 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!**

**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.