

## D. THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST (vv. 33-36)

<sup>33</sup> Exalted 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. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” ’

<sup>36</sup> “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

1. We often refer to the death of Christ, and the resurrection of Christ, but the story is not complete until we consider the exaltation of Christ. How does Peter describe the exaltation of Christ?
2. In Joel’s prophecy, it is God who will pour out his Spirit in the last days. Here Peter tells us that it is Jesus who has poured out the Spirit. What should we make of the fact that Peter can so comfortably ascribe to Jesus what the Old Testament ascribes to God?
3. How does the fact that Christ is seated at the right hand make the gift of the Spirit possible?
4. What is significant about the fact that God made Jesus, “both Lord and Messiah.”

## HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND (vv. 37-39)

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

1. How was the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of those who heard Peter’s message?
2. What is God’s part in our Salvation?
3. What is our part in our Salvation?
4. Why is repentance always an appropriate response to the gospel?
5. More often than not, people are called on to “repent and believe the good news (Mark 1:15).” How is being baptized an expression of our belief? How does it depict what Christ has done for us? How does it depict what the Holy Spirit has done in us?



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

## 360 DISCUSSION GUIDE



Anytime your explanation of an event begins with the line, “[We] are not drunk, as you suppose,” you know the story to follow is going to be a really good one.

That is precisely the case in Acts 2. Before Peter can answer the more serious question, “What does this mean?” he feels compelled to dispel the rumor, “[These people] have had too much [to drink].” I am not so sure that Peter helps the cause by adding, “it’s only nine in the morning.”

Once you get past the opening line, however, the story Peter tells us is not simply a good one, it is a great one. It is the climax to the grand redemptive story of the Bible. God is fulfilling His promise to renew all things by pouring out his Spirit, and this promise is possible because Jesus of Nazareth, whom we crucified, has been raised from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Peter’s sermon carefully explains what we are seeing, how it is possible and how we should respond.

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## WHAT WE ARE SEEING (vv. 14-21)

Peter tells us that we have a front row seat to the fulfillment of God's promise to renew all things by pouring out his Spirit.

*<sup>14</sup> This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: <sup>17</sup> "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. <sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. <sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. <sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'*

1. Upon whom did God pour out his Spirit in the Old Testament?
2. Upon whom does God pour out his Spirit in these last days?
3. What is significant about some of the people mentioned in this passage?
4. According to verse 21, what does the pouring out of the Spirit make possible?

## HOW IT IS POSSIBLE (vv. 22-38)

The simple answer to "how is this possible?" is through the life, death, resurrection and exaltation of Jesus of Nazareth." God is able to renew all things because of what he has accomplished through Christ.

### A. THE LIFE OF CHRIST (v. 22)

*<sup>22</sup> "Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.*

1. What is significant about the way that Peter describes the life of Christ?
2. Why doesn't Peter take the time to prove that Jesus performed miracles?
3. If Jesus' miracles were "signs" what did they point to?

### B. THE DEATH OF CHRIST (v. 23)

*<sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*

1. What is significant about the way Peter describes the death of Christ?
2. According to Peter who was responsible for Christ's death?

### C. THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST (vv. 24-32)

*<sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*

*<sup>25</sup> David said about him: "I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, <sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'*

*<sup>29</sup> "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.*

1. What is significant about the way that Peter describes Jesus' resurrection?
2. Peter points to Psalm 116 as a prophetic anticipation of Christ's resurrection. How was this Psalm true for David? How is this Psalm true for us? How is it true for Jesus in a way that it could never be true for David or for us?