Lesson Five: Chapter 2:14-40

The First Sermon of Peter

A. In the last lesson we read of the accusation made to the disciples that they were “full of new ___________” (vs. 13). Peter is compelled to stand and defend the disciples and the work of the Holy Spirit (cf. the Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit—Luke 11:15-23). Peter addresses all the persons in the vicinity of the upper room by “___________ up his voice.” The Word of God requires us to speak forth in boldness (cf. Acts 4:31). Peter’s sermon is addressed to the men of _________ and ___________. The first phase in the fulfillment of the command of Jesus Christ recorded in Acts 1:8 begins with the Jews in Jerusalem hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

B. Peter begins by telling the bystanders that the disciples are not ___________ because it is only the ___________ hour of the day. The third hour was reckoned as 9 am and the possibility of persons becoming intoxicated on new wine by such an early hour was very unlikely. Rather, these disciples are a part of the Divine fulfillment of God’s prophetic utterance spoken through the prophet ___________ (vs. 16).

C. The prophecy given by the prophet Joel signified the beginning of the Messianic Age.

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.” Joel 2:28-29

The concept of the Messianic Age included the hope that Israel would be restored to its former glory under the hand of God. In the book of Joel we read of the
necessary repentance of Israel from her sins and the promise of God’s provision in mercy and restoration. The important words of the prophecy are; “pour out my Spirit” (vss. 17-18) and “last days.” The phrase “last days” refers to the end time history of Israel (Jeremiah 30:4-10) and the Church (II Timothy 3:1). A difference between Israel and the Church is indicated throughout the New Testament. This difference is realized in the meaning of “last days” as Israel looks to a time of persecution, sorrow, repentance and exaltation but the Church anticipates that final chapter in human history, characterized by apostasy and great blasphemy leading to the Rapture of the Church from the world and into the presence of the Lord. A study of the “last days” and the doctrine of the “Last Day” provide interesting insights into what the world can expect before the return of Christ (cf. John 6:39-54, 11:24 etc.). The Last Day will be the time of the physical resurrection of the dead and the Last Judgment.

D. The prophecy of Joel is literally fulfilled with the “outpouring” of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The reference to “sons and daughters” refers to the descendants of Israel in the time of Joel. A result of this “outpouring” will include young men having __________ and old men having ___________ (vs. 17). Servants and handmaidens shall ___________ (vs. 18-cf. Luke 1:38). The move of the Holy Spirit always results in manifestations such as these.

*Pentecost*
by Bartolomeo di Tommasso da Foligno, 15th century Umbrian
E. The Sermon of Peter focuses upon three areas of Scripture. The first is the prophecy of Joel. The prophecy is fully given but not fully realized because the second half of the prophecy still must occur (Acts 2:19-20 & Revelation 6:12-13, Matthew 24:29 etc.). The second Scripture Peter quotes is the prophecy found in Psalm 16:25-31, and the third Scripture comes from Psalm 110:33-34. These three Old Testament Scriptures form the foundation for the Sermon of Peter.

The fresco is part of the cycle depicting the story of the life of St Peter. This scene refers to Peter's sermon, as recounted in the Acts of Apostles, which he preaches in Jerusalem after the descent of the Holy Ghost on Pentecost. The fresco actually illustrates the final part of the sermon, when Peter says: "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

**St Peter Preaching**-Masolino-1426-27
Fresco, 255 x 162 cm
Cappella Brancacci, Santa Maria del Carmine, Florence

F. The Sermon of Peter may be outlined as a model for our preaching today:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verse</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:14</td>
<td>Peter stood up and lifted up his voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:17-36</td>
<td>Peter used three major Scripture readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:22</td>
<td>Peter established the authority of Christ through the will of God</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:23</td>
<td>Peter points to the rebellion of man and sin towards God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:23-32</td>
<td>Peter details the Crucifixion of Christ and the Resurrection of Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:33-38</td>
<td>Peter tells his listeners of the Ascension of Christ and the Gift of the Holy Spirit</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:38</td>
<td>Peter follows up with a call to repentance from sin in the Name of Jesus Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:39</td>
<td>Peter promises that those who hear and obey will be given the Gift of the Holy Spirit</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:40</td>
<td>Peter uses many other words to testify and exhort unto Salvation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:38-41</td>
<td>Peter instructs those that believe in and receive the Gift of God to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ</td>
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</table>
G. We should remember that this sermon was prepared for through **prayer**.

Prayer includes petitioning God, interceding for others and simply communicating our love for the One who died for us. Prayer can also be a request for Divine Power to further the Gospel of Christ. Divine Power comes from the Holy Spirit who enables our preaching to reach the lost (Acts 2:37).

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**Bible Excursion**

**Nazarene and Christian—Names of Derision in the New Testament**

The fulfillment of these prophecies is proclaimed to have occurred through the person of **Jesus of Nazareth** (vs. 22). The use of one’s village for identification purposes was common due the many persons who had the same name (the name “Jesus” is derived from the name “Joshua”—cf. Acts 13:6—other names coming from Joshua are Hosea, Oshea, Jehoshua and Jeshua). The name “Jesus” is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Jehoshua and means “God is salvation” (Luke 4:16, 34 etc.). We can find another New Testament instance of one who is identified by the village he originated from, Judas Iscariot, so named because he came from the village of Iscariot.

**The earliest Christians were called Nazarenes or Galileans.** In Acts 24:5 we read that the early Christians were called “Nazarenes.” By the end of the 1st Century AD, the local Jewish synagogues opened their prayer sessions with a curse on the sect of the Nazarenes! The designation of the village of Nazareth or the region of Galilee was referred to in connection with the beliefs of the disciples in the One who came from Nazareth and dwelled in Galilee.

When our Lord was crucified, Pontius Pilate had the sign “**Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews**” posted above his head on the Cross (John 19:19-22). The irony of this statement was well intended by Pilate because he understood the despising attitude of the self-righteous Pharisees and Sadducees concerning Nazareth and Galilee. Pilate also understood the Jewish hope and expectation of a glorious Messiah King who would enter human history and deliver Israel from her captivity to any other nation (especially Rome). It was almost inconceivable to the studied Jew that the long awaited Messiah would come from anywhere but Jerusalem, the Holy City of God!

That Jesus was crucified as the “King of the Jews” was in response to the accusations of the ruling religious leaders in Israel regarding the claims of Jesus, and the subsequent threats these Pharisees and Sadducees made against Pilate when they discerned his unwillingness to have an “innocent” man crucified. They threatened Pilate as a co-conspirator against Rome and the King of Rome (Caesar) should he refuse to acknowledge the “false” claims of Jesus as the King of the Jews. However, Pilate recognized that the real concern of these religious leaders was not that of rebellion against Rome, but that of religion. The Jews thought that Jesus was a “blasphemer” because he made himself to be equal with God” (Luke 22:66-71, Mark 14:62-65, etc).

**The early believers were also called “Christians.”** The word “Christian meant “little Christ” and was used in derision of the first believers who imitated their Savior in obedience to his commands. It is found three times in the New Testament. The early believers were first called Christians at Antioch (Acts 11:26, 26:28 and I Peter 4:16).
### Origin

The first time, Moses received the ten commandments on stone tablets and the whole law about 7 Weeks after the death of the Passover lambs in Egypt (Exodus 19). **The law on stone tablets**

When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about **three thousand of the people** died. (Exodus 32:19/28)

3000 Men died!

Israel has been born as a nation through the gift of the law.

### Feast: Shavuot (Pentecost)

Sivan: **Commemoration of the giving of the law**

**Readings:** Exodus 19:1 - 20,23 / Ezekiel 1;1-28 and 3;12

*I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north... an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The centre of the fire looked like glowing metal.* (Ezekiel 1:4)

**Shavuot (Hebrew) means 'weeks': The Feast of Weeks. Pentecost goes back to the Greek *penteconta* "fifty". The Jews start counting "Omer" the 16. Nissan. They count the 50 days.**

**From wherever you live, bring **two loaves** made of two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour, baked with **yeast**, as a wave offering of first fruits to the **LORD**. (Leviticus 23:15-16)**

**Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the first fruits of the crops you sow in your field. (Exodus 23:16)**

### Fulfillment

The disciples received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)

**The law of life in your heart**

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about **three thousand** were added to their number that day. (Acts 2:40-41) Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:2)

3000 Men came to true life!

The Church of Jesus has been born through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. (Acts 2:2-4)***

**Harvest of first fruits: The Church of Jesus Christ is emerging!**
The Day of Pentecost-Unknown Artist