

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

¹⁴ But Peter,
standing with the eleven,
raised his voice
and addressed them:

³⁶ Therefore
let the entire house of Israel
know with certainty
that God has made him
both Lord and Messiah,
this Jesus
whom you crucified.'

³⁷ Now when they heard this,
they were cut to the heart
and said to Peter
and to the other apostles,
'Brothers,
what should we do?'

³⁸ Peter said to them,
'Repent,
and be baptized
every one of you
in the name of Jesus Christ
so that your sins may be forgiven;
and you will receive
the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ For the promise is for you,
for your children,
and for all who are far away,
everyone
whom the Lord our God calls to him.'

⁴⁰ And he testified
with many other arguments
and exhorted them,
saying,
'Save yourselves
from this corrupt generation.'

⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message
were baptized,
and that day
about three thousand persons
were added.

Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now on that same day
two of them were going to a village called Emmaus,
about seven miles from Jerusalem,
¹⁴ and talking with each other
about all these things that had happened.

¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing,
Jesus himself came near and went with them,
¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷And he said to them,
'What are you discussing with each other
while you walk along?'
They stood still, looking sad.

¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,
'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem
who does not know
the things that have taken place there
in these days?'

¹⁹He asked them,
'What things?'

They replied,
'The things about Jesus of Nazareth,
who was a prophet mighty in deed and word
before God and all the people,
²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over
to be condemned to death and crucified him.

²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.
Yes, and besides all this,
it is now the third day since these things took place.

²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us.
They were at the tomb early this morning,
²³and when they did not find his body there,
they came back and told us
that they had indeed seen a vision of angels
who said that he was alive.

²⁴Some of those who were with us
went to the tomb and found it
just as the women had said;
but they did not see him.'

²⁵Then he said to them,
'Oh, how foolish you are,
and how slow of heart to believe
all that the prophets have declared!

²⁶Was it not necessary
that the Messiah should suffer these things
and then enter into his glory?'

²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,
he interpreted to them the things about himself
in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going,
he walked ahead as if he were going on.

²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying,
'Stay with us, because it is almost evening
and the day is now nearly over.'
So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰When he was at the table with them,
he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him;
and he vanished from their sight.

³²They said to each other,
'Were not our hearts burning within us
while he was talking to us on the road,
while he was opening the scriptures to us?'

³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and
they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

³⁴They were saying,
'The Lord has risen indeed,
and he has appeared to Simon!'

³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road,
and how he had been made known to them
in the breaking of the bread

Reading Acts This Week

Again, we get Peter's speech on the day of Pentecost,
eloquent words put in the mouth of 'Rocky' the church founder
I think by early 2nd century apologists, militant evangelists

Setting the stage in action, disciples seen by crowds of pilgrims,
wind, tongues of flame, speaking in tongues –
we got reframing, now invitation to act

Revisit the risk of anti-Semitic reading – 'Jews killed Jesus'
Try 'we killed Jesus' – active or complicit
who needs forgiveness, and repentance – 'them', or 'us'?

Did God 'make him' Messiah and Lord
by or after his crucifixion, resurrection?
or was it pre-existing, or at birth, baptism, transfiguration?

v38 restates a gospel theme of enhancing baptism
John's baptism of repentance for forgiveness
Jesus' baptism of empowerment with Spirit for ministry

v39 names to target market: you, your children, those far away
the image of Jewish diaspora pilgrims in Jerusalem for festival
scattering across the Mediterranean

instead of 'Jesus saves' – 'save yourself'
from what, for what?
'corrupt generation'?

The outcome: 3,000 converts baptized
out of what, into what –
no church or creed yet...

Reading the Gospel This Week

Again, scarce resurrection stories take us to Luke
we like the Emmaus road story for table fellowship,
more familiar and intimate than public preaching

It's more a model of catechizing, teaching,
than of making converts from strangers,
more 'pink ecclesial' than 'yellow evangelical'

2nd or 3rd generation teaching elders can learn from Jesus,
the model of dialogical, contextual learning
applied in Asia Minor after Jerusalem is levelled

We can mine the imagery of fellowship and table,
of being hosts and guests together,
stay with us - recognition upon loss

I'm struck more this time by 'opened the scripture'
hermeneutical circles, paradigm shifts
when old habits are disrupted, demanding reframing

The prophets declared (not predicted)
the necessity that Messiah suffers to enter glory
the end makes us revisit what led up to it

Think of the 'unreliable narrator' post-modern style
inviting us to mistrust what is presented
until the narrator – and another pov – is revealed...

Imagine Emmaus road types with their 'aha'
meeting the 11 'at home' with 'appeared to Simon'
and how they reconcile – or contest... their epiphany