## Acts 2:14a, 36-41

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

<sup>36</sup>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?'

<sup>38</sup>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.

<sup>39</sup>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.'

<sup>41</sup>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, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened.

<sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.

<sup>18</sup>Then 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?'

> <sup>19</sup>He 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,

20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over
to be condemned to death and crucified him.

<sup>21</sup>But 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.

Moreover, some women of our group astounded us.
 They were at the tomb early this morning,
 23 and 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.

<sup>24</sup>Some 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.'

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

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

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

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

<sup>29</sup>But 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.

<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then 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?'

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

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

<sup>35</sup>Then 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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'

2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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