

Date: October 11, 2026

Title: The Promise, the Warning, and the Invitation

Passage: Acts 2:14-21

Summary:

I. The Promise

II. The Warning

III. The Invitation

Key Truths:

- The lasting blessing is that every believer now has the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes to understand God's Word and enables us to know and serve Jesus Christ. And that's a remarkable privilege that we should never take for granted.

Application:

- Sometimes we feel inadequate to speak for Christ. But the Spirit of God will strengthen you and guide your words. God will give you the words to say. Don't be discouraged or anxious about your ability to speak about Christ to others.
- As a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit in you. Take comfort and encouragement in that truth. Use it for His glory. Every Christian today has received the same power as the Day of Pentecost. The issue is whether you are letting the Spirit of God taking more control of you.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What's a takeaway from the sermon you can apply to your life?
- What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have heard or seen?

Introduction

Why do we gather weekly on Sunday's at church?

Why is there preaching - why not have some alternative means of learning?

What makes makes a good sermon?

- This passage: the first sermon in the book of Acts

Why preach?

- Jesus preached (see Sermon on the Mount; sermon leading to the feeding of the 5,000)

Luke 4:43

but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

Matthew 11:4-5

And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.”

This passage in Acts 2

- Peter preaches the first sermon.
 - What happens? 3,000 souls are saved.
 - The first church is formed.

Peter's sermon: several good elements of a good sermon:

- Explanation of Scripture with other Scripture
- Pointing to Christ throughout
- An invitation to accept Christ

Peter is using God's method to accomplish God's ends. God's method is preaching God's Word.

- There is a place to share God's Word one-on-one. But there is also a place to preach.

Peter is using passion as well as logic. He lays out Scripture and helps the people make connections.

- God's Word is simple enough that anyone can understand it. Sermons are a place where people can rise to discern and hear meaningful connections.
- Sermons are not:
 - a place to share only stories.
 - simple truths only.

"Preaching is logic on fire" (Martin Lloyd Jones)

- Passionate persuasion with strength from the Lord to explain His Word

Passage:

Acts 2:14-21

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them:

“Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

“‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

EXPOSITION

Overview

Peter outlines several key things:

- Promise fulfilled
- Warning of Judgement
- Invitation

Key observation:

Scripture is used to interpret Scripture

- What does the Bible say about this?
 - Not looking to a particular human source.

I. THE PROMISE (v.14-18)

- There is a promise that God has given: God would pour His Spirit over all believers
 - Peter quotes prophecy from Old Testament book of Joel

Context:

- Peter was previously a weak man where he ran away when Jesus was arrested.
- Peter later denied knowing Jesus three times.
- Peter was among the disciples locked in a room in fear.
- But 6 weeks after Jesus' death, Peter was changed:

Acts 2:14

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

- What changed?
 - Peter met the Risen Christ.
 - Christ ascended to heaven.
 - The Holy Spirit was poured out on him.
- Implications: Sometimes we feel inadequate and weak to speak for Christ.
 - Truth: It is the Spirit of God that will strengthen you and guide your words. God will give you the words to say.
 - Don't be discouraged or anxious about your ability to speak about Christ to others.
 - Be bold and be obedient.

Luke 12:11-12

And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you

should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Peter Points to Prophecy in Book of Joel

Acts 2:16-18

But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

Context of prophecy:

- Given 400 years before Christ.
- Locusts had destroyed all the vegetation of the land.
 - Situation seemed to be hopeless.
- Prophecy explained that the conditions was a small picture of a larger judgment.
 - But in the midst of the judgment, God provided a great promise of restoration.
 - Not only a promise of restoration but also the great promise of God's Spirit to be poured out among the people.
- Here: The promise was fulfilled on the Day of the Pentecost.

"Last days"

- Isaiah 2:2
- Jeremiah's 23:20
- Ezekiel 38:16
- denotes the time when the Messiah would set up His kingdom.
- Jesus' first arrival ushered the beginning of this time ("last days")
- We are now in this time.

1 John 2:18

Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

Hebrews 1:1-2

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

The Holy Spirit

- Previously was given to people for special tasks
- Now, the Holy Spirit would be poured out among people.
 - Implications:
 - We are now all one in Christ with different roles.

"Dreams and visions"

- In Acts, people would have dreams and visions (but not by everyone)
- Calvin: God revealed Himself in the Old Testament. But only certain individuals were priests who could understand and know God.
 - With the pouring out of the Spirit, now all would have spiritual understanding of God.
 - Because of God's Spirit in us, we are now able to know God and understand God's Word.

Key Point:

- The lasting blessing is that every believer now has the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes to understand God's Word and enables us to know and serve Jesus Christ. And that's a remarkable privilege that we should never take for granted.

But people today are seeking some additional vision or dream.

- Question: What is it that you are seeking and looking to get that you have not already received through His Word?

2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

- As a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit in you.

- Take comfort and encouragement in that truth. Use it for His glory.
- Every Christian today has received the same power as the Day of Pentecost.
 - If you belong to Christ, you have the Spirit of God.
 - Are you letting the Spirit of God in you taking more control of you?

II. THE WARNING (v.19-20)

- God will not only do great things but bring judgment.

Acts 2:19-20

And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

- When will this happen?

See Jesus' prior words:

Matthew 24:29-31 (The Coming of the Son of Man)

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Context of Jesus' words:

Matthew 24:3

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

Matthew 24:4-10

And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and

kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are but the beginning of the birth pains.

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another.

- There will be a time of tribulation that will come.

Revelation 6:12-14

When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.

- Peter saw that the prophecy in Joel as happening in the time of Jesus. He thought this would occur in his lifetime.
 - But we are in the time of "already...but not yet"
 - Jesus has come "already" but He will come again a second time, which has "not yet" occurred.

The 3 Dimensional grid to interpret prophecy (see Luke 4 and Isaiah 61):

1. The First Dimension (the historical dimension)

- The immediate applications of the prophecy

2. The Second Dimension (the first coming of Christ)

- How much was fulfilled with the first coming of Christ.

3. The Third Dimension (the second coming of Christ)

- Jesus will come again to bring final judgment.

Isaiah 61:1-2

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to

proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

Luke 4:17-21

And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

- Observation: Jesus stopped at the reference to the day of judgment
 - Why?
 - The first coming of Jesus is about salvation
 - But the second coming will be judgment.

III. THE INVITATION (v.21)

- What every person must do.
-
- Judgment of God is coming and is real.
 - How to be saved?
 - Only through Jesus.
 - Call upon the name of the Lord.

Turn to Him. Trust in Him. Obey Him.