

Acts....you shall be Witnesses

Pt. 8 THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Acts 2:37-47

ILLUSTRATION:

¹"My hearing [the good news of Jesus] gave me a heart wound. By God's blessing, my old foundation was broken up, and I saw that my righteousness would not save me."

– Nathan Cole, a Connecticut farmer converted to Jesus Christ in the 1740s, describing what happened to him under the preaching of George Whitefield.

1. IT BRINGS DEEP CONVICTION

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? – Acts 2:37

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. – Zechariah 12:10

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. – John 16:8

2. IT RESULTS IN OPEN CONFESSION

Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? – Acts 2:37

And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. – Acts 9:6

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? – Acts 16:30

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. – 1 John 1:9

3. IT GIVES PLAIN DIRECTIONS

Then Peter said unto them, 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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God

¹ Quoted in Timothy J. Keller, *Ministries of Mercy* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1997), p. 37

shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. – Acts 2:38-40

4. IT RECEIVES JOYFUL RECEPTION

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. – Acts 2:41

5. IT PROMOTES STEADY PROGRESSION

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. – Acts 2:42

6. IT DRAWS ENTHUSIASTIC COOPERATION

And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. – Acts 2:44-45

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. – Ephesians 5:2

7. IT ACHIEVES GREAT JUBILATION

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. – Acts 2:46-47

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. – Acts 10:43

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