

ACTS 2: 1-41

BACKGROUND

In today's passage, the 12 apostles are together with 120 believers in the city of Jerusalem shortly after Jesus had died, came back alive, and miraculously ascended into heaven. Jesus is about to send all of them on mission to tell the world about the message of the gospel but he first told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes in power, which we'll see in today's passage.

In Acts 2 we see that there are thousands of people who are Jewish and are visiting the city of Jerusalem. At this juncture in history, there were Jewish people living all over the known world and many of them would come regularly for the annual Jewish festival called Passover and most would stick around for an extra couple months to celebrate another Jewish festival called Pentecost. The festival of Pentecost is the setting of the story in Acts 2.

In the Genesis 11 there is a story called "the tower of Babel" where a unified group of people rebelliously, pridefully, and arrogantly start building an enormous tower as a monument to their awesomeness and independence from God. In response to their motives, God confused the people's languages so that they couldn't unify together in their quest to rebelliously build the tower. Fast forward to our passage in Acts 2, we see God's mercy in reversing what he did at the tower of Babel. In this passage, God radically unifies the languages of people through the power of the Holy Spirit in order to show them a bold glimpse of his mercy towards humanity and to give credibility to the message of the gospel.

PRAY

PLEASE READ ACTS 2:1-41

SHARE OBSERVATIONS (Who? What? When? Where? Repeating words, phrases, & themes?)

QUESTIONS

1. In v5-13, the God-fearing Jews from all over the world heard the believers "declaring the wonders of God" in their own native languages. What are some of the various ways this impacted the crowd?
2. In v12, some in the crowd ask "what does this mean?" In v14-36, what are some of the main points that you notice in Peter's explanation to the crowd?
3. In v37, what kind of impact does Peter's explanation have on the crowd? Why do you think they were impacted in this way?
4. In v37, some in the crowd ask Peter "what shall we do?" What are the main points in Peter's response to this question? What kind of impact does this have on the crowd?
5. What would you have been thinking and feeling had you been in the crowd that day? How do you think you would have responded?
6. How does this passage encourage or challenge you? How can we pray in response to this passage and for each other?