

Devoted to the Apostle's Teaching

(Series: Reimagining Church; Message Seven)

Acts 2:14-42

A. One of our foundational (core) values is sound preaching and teaching

1. Preaching is often focused on new insights and information
2. Spirit-anointed preaching/teaching is focused on life transformation

ANOINTING

"Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say" (2:14)

A. Note: Gospel teaching is a mark of the community

"These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning." (2:15)

B. Note: Gospel teaching begins where people are

"This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.'" (2:16-18)

C. Note: Gospel teaching reaches out to engage everyone

"I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the Earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord (wonders still to be fulfilled). And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. People of Israel, listen to this!" (2:19-22a)

"All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching..." (2 Tim. 3:16)

D. Note: All Gospel teaching is based on the inspired Word of God

"Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge, and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross." (2:22b-24)

E. Note: Spirit-anointed teaching pulls no punches

"But God raised Him up from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him." (2:24)

"God raised this Jesus to life and we are all witnesses of the fact." (2:32)

F. Note: Gospel teaching always offers hope found only in the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus

"Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear." (2:33)

"Let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (2:36)

G. Note: Spirit-anointed teaching is focused on life change

"When the people heard this they were cut to the heart...what shall we do?" (2:37)

"Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (2:38)

"...and about 3000 were added to their number that day." (2:41b)

AFFIRMATION

A. God uses Spirit-anointed teaching as a catalyst for spiritual transformation

1. A basic question we all face is "What's going to form my mind?"
2. The Bible warns us against such pursuing wisdom in the wrong places and suggests renewing our minds by thinking about what is noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy... (cf. Philippians 4:8)

B. Remember the final commissioning by Jesus?

"Go into all the world and make disciples...teaching them to do everything I am commanding you" (Matthew 28:18f)

1. The commission is about making disciples; making disciples requires teaching
2. Jesus was a teacher; Jesus calls us to make disciples and teach them

"They were [fully] devoted to the Apostles' teaching" (2:42)

"Now I commit you to God and to the Word of his grace - a message to build you up and give you an inheritance..." (20:32)

"Boldly and without hindrance [Paul] preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ." (28:31)

C. Being fully devoted to the Apostle's Teaching means...

1. To be fully devoted requires a humble spirit (2:12 - "What does this mean?")
2. To be fully devoted means being a disciple, "What should we do?" (2:37)

D. Having the mind of Christ is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit

ACTION

A. First: we reflect on God's Word (i.e., the Apostle's teaching)

B. Second: we personalizing God's Word

C. Third: We are led to confession

D. Fourth: we begin to "hunger and thirst for righteousness"

1. Praying, "Holy Spirit, what do you want me to do?"
2. God loves to answer those prayers

E. Fifth: The Word becomes a part of you

1. The Word must assimilate you as you assimilate the Word
2. Your mind will be gradually renewed and you will act accordingly
3. People who are devoted to the teaching of the Word are not only informed but being transformed