**Speaking In Tongues? Why? Jesus!**

**Acts 2:1-21**

Pentecost – May 31, 2020

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

One of the weaknesses of any lectionary is that sometimes they choose a text to have read on a particular Sunday, and when that text gets to a certain point, it was decided to just stop…

So it is with our text. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were visited by the Holy Spirit and granted two things – the boldness to speak of the mighty deeds of God (even though they had been in exile), and the gift of tongues so that many might hear of these deeds in their own tongue, that is, in their own language.

Some in Jerusalem that day say the disciples are drunk, but that doesn’t even make sense. I have heard those who have had to much to drink try to speak in their own native language and be near to indecipherable because of slurred and sloppy speech. But to speak intelligible in a tongue/language that is not their own? Sorry, alcohol does not grant that ability.

Peter defends the other, using the words of the prophet Joel to explain what is happening as he begins his first sermon. But our text just stops… *“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

Personally, that is very unfortunate. It leaves too much unanswered.

They were all together in one place when the Holy Spirit came upon them…

Tongues of fire appeared and rested on each of them.

They were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues.

They began telling the mighty works of God.

Who? After recruiting Matthias, the numbered disciples of 12, who were hiding out in the upper room after Jesus’ ascension.

What were the mighty works of God they were speaking in other tongues, so that many could hear them told? That which was foretold, that they might call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

What is the name they were proclaiming? *“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

Oh yeah, here is a good place to stop! Wrong!

Peter did not end there, he continued.

*Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.* (Acts 1:22-24 NASB)

This might have been a better place to stop the text. Peter is preaching a great sermon. He moving forward, applying Joel, and all the Scriptures to bear on Jesus.

Paul points the finger at those gathered, they were the ones who delivered Jesus up to be crucified – **by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God**. Yes, you did it, but it was God’s plan. And even you used godless men to do your dirty work of nailing Him to the cross – putting Him to death.

But it was also - **by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God** that He was raised up again, putting and end to the agony of death.

At this point, Peter continues by quoting King David to give prophetic evidence of the resurrection of Jesus, proving indisputably that He is God’s Christ – the anointed One foretold for generations – the Christ in which all before had placed their hope and were granted salvation.

But after that, Peter continues,

*Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”*

*Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”* (Acts 1:36-39 NASB)

In concluding, Peter is driving the point home – this One you crucified, the one who walked among you whom you knew as Jesus – He is both Lord and Christ. He is both God, and the One foretold in all the Scriptures. What this Jesus, God’s Christ has accomplished robed in human flesh, was for your own good. He did this – God did these mighty acts to redeem you. This was done for your forgiveness.

Were the disciples speaking in tongues? Yes! They were proclaiming the mighty acts of God. They were proclaiming Jesus as God’s Christ. There is no other reason for speaking in tongues.

Yes, I know people who claim to speak in tongues. And the ones I have know to make that claim, always make a point about their speaking in tongues. They like to make bold statements about what “they” can do, and if you cannot do it, then you are not as good a Christian as they are – at least not until you also can speak in tongues.

Paul would later take a couple chapters in his first letter to the church in Corinth to claim that while He could speak in tongues, it is for the purpose of the building up of the church in knowledge and faith. In other words, to proclaim Jesus.

Nigerians came to Embarrass, speaking in our tongue the mighty deeds of God – the proclaimed Jesus Christ and Him crucified. They proclaimed it so that you repent unto the forgiveness of sins.

Our text ends with the last phrase of Peter’s quotation from the prophet Joel, *“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”*

But what does it mean to call upon the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved? Pierced to the heart by his sermon, Peter proclaims, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”

What does it mean to call upon the name of the Lord? It means to repent of your sins! To repent of your sins is to believe you are indeed a sinner. To call upon the name of the Lord is to lay yourself before God. You do not in any way try to trust in yourself. You simply repent.

I a poor miserable sinner sums up repentance very well.

But how many people are unwilling to do that? How many people want to consider their place before God based upon themselves? Some people think that repentance is too simple, that God must require more of us that just repentance.

Repentance isn’t simple, especially if it is honest repentance. Honest repentance is soul-searching and embarrassing. Repentance goes deep and allows God’s Law to convict us of all our sins, whether they be in our thoughts, our words, or in our actions – repentance makes no excuses.

Repentance does not blame others, the world, or even Satan for leading us into sin. Repentance examines self and says quite simply mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa – by my fault, my own fault, my own most grievous fault.

Repentance sees our own sinfulness and desires it to end. Repentance desires us to purify our thoughts, cleanse our mouths, and straighten up our actions.

And then, repentance calls upon the name of the Lord!

Who is Jesus? He is the One God promised to send to fix all the problems that began with the first sin in the garden. Jesus is true God taking on human flesh in the womb of Mary, born sinless. It was the God-man who was perfect in every way, the Lamb of God without blemish – sinless and holy.

This Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him, just as you yourselves know from the Gospels— this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, was nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

Did you hear that? You can only hear it if it is in your tongue, in your language.

Jesus was delivered over by the ***predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God***, to be put to death, the sacrifice in the fullness of time to make atonement for sin – for your sin.

In your tongue, proclaim and confess Jesus, who purchased your forgiveness.

In your tongue, proclaim and confess that Jesus’ blood covers your sins.

In your tongue hear a Word of Jesus, the absolution spoken into your ears that you might have peace and be saved.

In your tongue hear the Word of Christ invite you to His table to eat His body, to drink His blood, for the forgiveness of sins.

Dear beloved of God, I speak to you that you might hear and confess, Jesus, the name of the Lord and be saved. Amen.