

Sunday, August 31, 2025
Sierra Vista Community Church, Las Cruces, NM
Peter's Bold Stance, part 31, 2:36-47

Introduction—As we finish this sermon from Peter, you will notice Peter challenges the listeners to do something about what they have heard. It is one thing to know what to do, but it is a totally different item when you do what you know is right.

James 1:22-25—**22** Do not merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. **23** Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror **24** and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. **25** But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

A W Tozer said this: "We can know the right words yet never be changed. This is the difference between information and transformation."

It is time for the church to be known for doing the right thing, not just talking about doing the right thing.

We can't just talk about Jesus; we must talk to Jesus! Amen?

Stand & Read—Acts 2:36-47

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

The Fellowship of the Believers

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Pray

1. When God Speaks to You, You Should Respond!—verses 36-39

36 “Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

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38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

- A. One of the best things you can do is respond to God when He calls.
- B. **Verse 36**—God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah.
- C. Lord—meaning Adoni, which means Master. The Master of the house is the One in charge.
- D. Jesus isn’t just a master; He is the Master.
- E. He is the promised Messiah from days gone by.
- F. Messiah means The Christ. The Promised One. The Anointed One.
- G. Peter reminds us once again, that we crucified our Lord and our Messiah. We did it.
- H. How did we do it? By our sin. Our sin is what nailed Jesus to the cross. There is no escape clause by saying you weren’t there. He died for the sins of the world, therefore if He has forgiven you of your sin, then your sin was why He had to die.
- I. I want to remind you that Jesus allowed Himself to be our redemption. He willingly went to the cross.
- J. **John 10:17-18**—**17 The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.**
- K. **Verse 37**—When the hearers of this message heard that they crucified Jesus, they responded, What shall we do?
- L. Their hearts were seared with this news of their sin. They wanted to do something about it!
- M. When we are confronted with the sin in our life, it should make us sad. It should break our hearts that we would sin against a Holy God.
- N. The statement cut to the heart! ***Heart change is what God wants from our response!***
- O. **Verse 38**—When the Spirit of God moves in our heart, we ought to repent so that we can be forgiven.
- P. Repent means to go 180 degrees in the opposite direction.
- Q. Peter says everyone needs to repent so we can be forgiven of our sins.
- R. The context of repent and be baptized in this text doesn’t mean we have to be baptized to be saved.
- S. Let me explain. Baptism always follows salvation. No where in Scripture is there any context where baptism precedes salvation. It is always salvation, then baptism.
- T. Peter was just stating the obvious. As a result of our repentance, ***we are to respond in obedience in water baptism.*** If it the same day of your salvation, so be it, but

even if it a month, a year, or 10 years after your salvation, it doesn't change the fact that you are saved before you are baptized.

- U. If we really want to study the context even further, we can look back to chapter 1
- V. **Acts 1:5**—For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
- W. Peter could be talking about the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit. As we repent, we make room for the Holy Spirit to come in and fill us. Amen.
- X. **Verse 39**—When we repent and ask for forgiveness, we make room for the Holy Spirit to impact our children, especially our kids who have fallen away!
- Y. God wants to call them back to His side! Oh church, let us get it right with Him!

Illustration—Henry Blackaby, Experiencing God

Reality #4—God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes and His ways.

- **God Speaks in different ways.**

Hebrews 1:1—In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways

4 Important truths characterize each instance when God spoke in the Old Testament

- 1 – When God spoke, the experience was usually unique to that individual.
- 2 – When God spoke, the person was sure God was speaking.
- 3 – When God spoke, the person knew what God said.
- 4 – When God spoke, that was an encounter with God.

- **God Speaks by the Holy Spirit**

John 14:8-9—Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Truth is NEVER discovered it is ALWAYS revealed

- **God Speaks Through the Bible**

1 Corinthians 2:14-15—The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. 15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments

- **God Speaks Through Prayer**

What God says in prayer is far more important than what you say

Romans 8:26-27—In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. **27** And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

- **God Speaks Through Circumstances**

- **God Speaks Through the Church**

Ephesians 4:15-16—Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. **16** From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Application—Is God speaking to you? Then do not hesitate and respond to Him!

2. When God Convicts You, You Should Obey!—verses 40-41

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." 41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

- A. Obedience is a result of conviction and love. When you are convinced of the truth of God, obedience is a natural outcome.
- B. Why then, does obedience seem so hard at times when God asks us to do something? Could it be that we aren't convinced that He really means it?
- C. **Verse 40**—Peter continued to warn everyone of the corruption in His day. He begged them to save themselves.
- D. Now we know we can't save ourselves, only Jesus can save us. Peter's intent was that the way we save ourselves is by accepting the message of God.
- E. **Verse 41**—Those who accepted God's message were baptized.
- F. Again, this could mean that the power was so overwhelming that upon asking Jesus to be their Lord and Savior, they wanted to be obedient while the Spirit was hot!
- G. There was a huge Holy Spirit party going on, and many were baptized as a result of the acceptance of this message.
- H. **Verse 41**—Here is the most amazing thing about this sermon of Peter. 3,000 people came to know the Lord Jesus Christ that day! 3,000! 3,000! 3,000!
- I. When you come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit of God, you should obey!

Application—Do you allow yourself to be convicted by God? If you do, do you obey Him when you sense His leadership in your heart? Today, you can ask Jesus into your heart to be your personal Lord.

3. When You Allow God to Lead You, You Are Transformed!—verses 42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- A. Transformation can only happen when Jesus is at the center of your life. When He is compartmentalized, then He can only operate in that area where you allow Him to operate.
- B. **Verse 42**—Devotion—We see here devoted believers living life together
- C. **Verse 43**—Awe—God has a wonder about Him that we need in order to be fulfilled in Him. We need to know that He is a supernatural God that makes miracles on a daily basis.
- D. **Verse 44**—People who focus on Jesus have more in common than when the focus is on other things.
- E. **Verse 45**—Mature, godly believers are generous people! They love to share in the bounty that has blessed them with!
- F. **Verse 46-47**—These 2 verses show what transformation looks like!
- G. When transformation takes place, you affect the lives of others.
- H. People want what you have when what you have is the real Jesus!

Illustration—Dwight Moody said this: *The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation.*

If we want real transformation, we must stop looking at the Bible as mere information.

Application—Has Jesus transformed our life? Are you living for Him? Do you want that transformation in your life? Give all of you to all of Him!