

Acts 2:22-36 (NIV)

22 “Men of Israel, listen to this: 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.

23 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.

24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

25 David said about him: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope,

27 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.

28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.’

29 “Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.

30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

31 Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay.

32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

33 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.

34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, ““The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand

35 until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.””

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

44-02-08-Listen to This!

prophecy, Gospel, Christ, incarnation, sovereignty
Acts 2:22-36

Spiritual comprehension often requires Holy Spirit confrontation.

INTRODUCTION:

–Pentecost upset the religious cart! The Jewish crowd heard Christ’s disciples “declaring the wonders of God” not in a language common to their religion, but *in foreign languages*, and not just from the mouths of men but *women were prophesying*—a slap in the face to their religious idea that God only used men to speak His Word. Pentecost upset their cart! –This dramatic event raised a question: “What does this mean?” *Filled with the Spirit*, Peter told them “this is what was spoken” in Joel’s prophecy. Just as He overturned the money-changing tables in the Temple, Jesus was overturning their tables again, and *it was only the beginning*. Their *full* understanding lacked something. **HOM.idea**. Peter became the channel of that confrontation when he stood up and said “*listen to this...*”

I. You Had a Your Say in This!

- A. Listen: let me remind you— v.22, *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.* (Even if they hadn’t seen them, news about those miracles was everywhere, just as testimonies of Christ work in people’s lives is common today. But to let that news sink in was a choice then, and it remains a choice now.)
- B. Listen: you tried getting rid of Him— v.23, *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.* (People try to eliminate Him today!—crossing Him out of their *schools, the courts, the government, their businesses, their homes, their lives; but...*)
- C. Listen: God has the final say on all such efforts!— v.24, *But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.* (*Extinguish the light of truth, and God will reignite it!* Christ’s resurrection confronted Jewish religious pride, and today it still confronts the pride of unbelief!)

TRANS: “*Wait! Isn’t this the guy who repeatedly denied that he even knew Jesus? What changed him? Now he’s boldly telling us we were*

wrong!” Yes, and he’s not done. Unbelief can’t understand spiritual truth, because **spiritual comprehension often requires Holy Spirit confrontation**. They were wrong about Jesus, because they weren’t listening to one of their favorite persons in the OT: “listen to this...”

II. King David Had His Say in This!

A. Listen: you ignored the prophetic hope that a son of David would come to bring deliverance and to set up an everlasting kingdom. (Today people still overlook the amazing ways that Jesus fulfilled OT prophecy; their unbelief blocks their comprehension.)

1. So Peter refers to David’s own words– v.25-27, David said about him [about Christ]: “I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”
2. Unbelief has its reasoning, and an unbeliever might say that this is David speaking about himself, but before his audience had a chance to do that, Peter pointed out the obvious– v.29, “Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.” (Anticipating unbelieving arguments can be part of the help provided by the guidance of the Holy Spirit...)

B. Listen, Peter tells them– v.30-31, But [David] was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. (Busted! Yes, unbelief is busted! Because in every unbelieving heart there’s faith in a myth, and God’s truth is the ultimate myth-buster!)

C. Listen to this: one more thing in David’s prophecy– v.28, You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.

1. Do you know the path to life?– John 14:6, Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (Those words of Jesus are the most confrontational in the Bible, because they confront every other religious idea of salvation.)
2. Are you missing “joy in his presence”? Unbelief loses it by rejecting the Son of David and of God, but Pentecost means He’s not done giving it– John 14:18, I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (This coming requires a metanoia, a changed mind: repentance!)

TRANS: v.28 in David’s prophecy is the key issue. Human minds may

have reasons for unbelief, but the human heart has greater reasons, greater needs, needs that Christ came to meet. Unbelief had its say by rejecting Christ; the prophet David had his say by explaining Who it was they crucified; but “listen to this...”

III. Now Jesus Has the Final Say

A. Listen: Resurrection changed things!– v.32, God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. (A living Christ confronts past, present and future unbelief. But believers add to that by testifying about what their living Lord has done for them in their own lives!)

1. What has changed?– v.33 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. (God’s Kingdom is now ruled in heaven by the Son of Man rejected by unbelief; and ruled on earth by the Son of God Who sent the Spirit to continue His earthlywork!)
2. David’s prophecy was clear– v.34-35, For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.”’ (Unbelief makes a person into an enemy of this exalted Lord, but as long as there is life there is hope for repentance, a change from unbelief to faith.)

B. Listen: this rejected Jesus is now the Ruler of heaven and earth– v.36, Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. (The confrontation of unbelief has this eternal finalé– Phil 2:10-11, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

CONCLUSION:

–When unbelief meets truth, unbelievers get another chance to choose to confess Christ now, rather at the final Judgment. We, like Peter, need Spirit-filled boldness to make this Gospel understood, because **Holy Spirit confrontation can lead to spiritual comprehension**.

–As the Jews did, some still fight against Jesus and think they’ve won, but they’ve lost and are lost, until they surrender to Him as Lord. Just before this confrontation, Peter quoted from Joel’s prophecy about what that surrender promises– Acts 2:21, And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Salvation: that’s why He came, that why the Holy Spirit confronts, that’s why we are called to help other confess Him.