

6/15/11

**THE FIRST LESSON** Acts 2:14, 22-36

*(God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit act to bring salvation to the world!)*

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. . .

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."

**THE GOSPEL LESSON** Matthew 28:16-20

*(In His last words to the disciples Jesus tells them to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He tells them to go make disciples baptizing and teaching.)*

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**THE SERMON**

**"The TEAM Working to Save Us"**

**Acts 2**

INTRO - Recently I read about a bird that had been tagged, and flew 3700 miles non-stop

averaging 40 miles an hour in just over 4 days. Think of the stamina, the ability of the bird to know where it was going. Can you exert yourself for 4 days straight? How could the bird do this? It is just another mystery of God's wonderful creation.

I. There are many mysteries, but our Bible reading today points us to the greatest mystery that exists in the whole universe - the mystery of God.

A. The teaching of the Trinity can be controversial because we don't find that name in the Bible, but we do find many places where we are told about the one God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

1. Tonight's lesson is one of many such places.
2. Every place you read the word God, is the same as Father.
3. All the references to Jesus, or Messiah, or Christ, talk about the Son, who is also called Lord, or God. Getting confused.
4. This account tells us about Pentecost Day, the sending of the Holy Spirit, who is God and Lord. Now that is really confusing.

B. Before I leave you in confusion, I want you to think that we shouldn't be surprised that God is beyond our understanding.

1. Isaiah 55 says, **8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**
2. Do you really want a God who is no bigger than your understanding?

C. Our reading today talks about God.

1. The Father worked miracles through Jesus, according to verse 22, raised Jesus from the dead, according to verse 24 and 32.
2. Jesus performed miracles, according to verse 22, is God according to the Psalms quoted in verse 25 and 34, has sent the Spirit according to verse 33.
3. The Spirit is poured out and was showing His actions through a rushing wind, through a gift of speaking and understanding, through helping people to believe.
4. It is all a mystery, but a mystery which God tells us about.

II. This is not just confusion, it is good news.

A. Have you ever faced a situation in life that is over your head? Recently we had 3 church members in the hospital. First of all they were there because their problems were above their ability to deal with them. But, in some cases, in one of these cases, there is no cure there is just treatment.

1. What do you do when life presents mysteries, challenges, problems that seem beyond your ability?
2. God, whose ways are higher than ours, who is a mystery, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is working to help us.

B. There is a situation none of us can deal with. The problems and death we face are because we have selfishly done our will, rather than God's. In rebellion we reject God

and hurt others, even when we don't know it, and sometimes when we do know it. The punishment for sin is death, and it is hell. And there is no way we can make ourselves not a sinner.

1. But, God the Father loved us and sent His Son.
2. God the Son lived a perfect life for us, suffered and died to pay for our sins, and rose to win victory over sin and death and hell.
3. God the Holy Spirit comes to our hearts and teaches us about Jesus, He creates faith in us, He comforts and strengthens us.
4. When life is bigger than we are, God who loves us is bigger than life.

III. Recently we had a group of people consider going to Northway to do a Bible School. I believe I may have shared that with you. Part of the problem was they ordered materials, and got the wrong ones. In addition, they finally were sent to the wrong place. They felt a nudge from God to share the good news, but the job seemed pretty big.

- A. When God calls to a job whether making disciples, or love your neighbor, or love your enemy, Know that God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit is working to help you.
- B. God works in ways we can see, such as the baptism that happened tonight where Karsyn was forgiven, and given the Holy Spirit and made a child of God.
- C. God works in ways we don't understand.
- D. But, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are working to help us and save us, and send us.

CONCLUSION - By the way, I've seen pictures of the VBS. God is bigger than whatever problems may have seemed to face our members.

Whatever faces you, Know that God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit is with you and is bigger than any thing you face. Amen.