

THEY TURNED THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN! Who Were These Guys?

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

WHAT WAS THE MESSAGE THAT THEY PREACHED?

Excerpts from the major sermons in Acts:

Peter: at the birth of the church:

“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, (1) a man attested to you (2) by God with (3) miracles and wonders and signs which (4) God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— (5) this Man, delivered over by the (6) predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, (7) you nailed to a cross by (8) the hands of godless men and (9) put Him to death. But God (10) raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was (11) impossible for Him to be held in its power.”

Acts 2:22-24

1. Jesus, the man
2. Jesus, empowered by God
3. Jesus, the worker of divine miracles, wonders and signs
4. Jesus, empowered by God
5. Jesus, the Man (now the God-Man)
6. Election, the Sovereignty of God
7. The Jews, personal responsibility for the rejection of Jesus
8. The role of Rome
9. The death of Jesus
10. The resurrection of Jesus
11. The Divine nature of Jesus, One with the Father

“This Jesus (1) God raised up again, to which (2) we are all witnesses. Therefore having been (3) exalted to the right hand of God, and having (4) received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, (5) He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but (6) he himself says: ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”’ Therefore (7) let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him (8) both Lord and Christ— this (9) Jesus whom you crucified.”

Acts 2:32-35

1. The resurrection of Jesus by God the Father
2. The personal testimony, eye-witness account of the Believers
3. Jesus, the exalted Son of God
4. The witness of the Holy Spirit
5. God the Father is the One who gave them the Holy Spirit
6. The interpretation of Psalm 16 pointing to Jesus as the Son of God
7. The bold, Spirit empowered proclamation to the house of Israel
8. Jesus, Lord and Messiah
9. Jesus, the One crucified by those who are guilty of sin

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, (1) “Repent, and each of you be (2) baptized in the (3) name of Jesus Christ for the (4) forgiveness of your sins; and (5) you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for (6) you and your children and for all who are far off, as (7) many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”

Acts 2:37-41

1. Essential Element: Repentance
2. Essential Element: Baptist
3. Essential Element: Authority of Jesus
4. Essential Element: The recognition of our need for forgiveness
5. Essential Element: Holy Spirit is our guarantee of salvation
6. Essential Element: The universality of the gospel message
7. Essential Element: The sovereign choice of God

Peter: at the healing of the lame beggar

But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, (1) as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The (2) God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has (3) glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom (4) you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when (5) he had decided to release Him. But (6) you disowned the (7) Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but (8) put to death the (9) Prince of life, the one whom (10) God raised from the dead, a (11) fact to which we are witnesses.”

Acts 3:12-15

1. God is sovereign, they are not
2. Identify with their Jewish roots, with God the Father
3. Jesus, the glorified One
4. Personal responsibility and guilt
5. Again
6. Then once again
7. Jesus, God Himself, the Holy and Righteous One
8. Jesus, the crucified One
9. Jesus, God Himself, the Prince of life
10. Jesus, the resurrected One
11. The bold, confident witness of the early Believers

“And on the (1) basis of faith in (2) His name, it is the (3) name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes (4) through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. But the things which (5) God announced beforehand by (6) the mouth of all the prophets, that (7) His Christ would suffer, (8) He has thus fulfilled.”

Acts 3:16-18

1. The Gospel: Grace through faith without works
2. His Name: Faith in all that Jesus is
3. His Name: The power and authority of Jesus to heal
4. Through Him: Election, the faith to believe is a gift from Jesus
5. The sovereign, preordained plan of God
6. The Old Testament spoke of the Messiah, of Jesus
7. The atoning suffering and death of Christ
8. The sovereign working of God the Father in the events of Jesus

“Therefore (1) repent and (2) return, so that (3) your sins may be wiped away, in order that (4) times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the (5) Christ (6) appointed for you, whom (7) heaven must receive until (8) the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke (9) by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.”

Acts 3:16-18

1. Essential Element: Repentance
2. Essential Element: Return in repentance for forgiveness
3. Essential Element: Forgiveness and Restoration
4. Essential Element: The promise of the Holy Spirit
5. Essential Element: Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah
6. Essential Element: Election, Jesus *appointed* for us
7. Essential Element: The death and resurrection of Jesus
8. Essential Element: The Second Coming of Christ
9. Essential Element: Jesus, the fulfillment of the OT prophets

Ok, How ‘bout some common elements:

- 1. Jesus the man**
- 2. Jesus the fulfillment of the Old Testament**
- 3. Jesus as crucified and risen**
- 4. Jesus as the *suffering* servant**
- 5. Jesus as the reigning Son of God**
- 6. The sovereign, pre-determined plan of salvation**
- 7. The gift of the Holy Spirit**
- 8. The guilt of mankind**
- 9. The need for repentance, forgiveness and baptism**
- 10. The importance of the Name of Jesus**