



MISSION CONTROL “The Message That Started It All”

Acts 2:14-36
June 7, 2015

The Cause of the Message

Answers to the Crowd & Culture’s Questions

The Courage of the Messenger

Peter & the Other Disciples

Acts 4:13; Ephesians 6:19; Philippians 1:20

The Content & Centrality of the Message – JESUS

✓ Explaining the Scripture

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Joel 2:28-32

Jesus is the Fulfillment of the Old Testament

Matthew 13:35; Luke 24:44; Acts 3:18

✓ Examining the Evidence

Jesus is the Message of the Church

2 Corinthians 11:3–5; 2 Timothy 1:9–11

The Comprehensiveness of the Message

It’s a Whosoever Story and Invitation

The Claim & Certainty of the Message

God Made Him Both Lord and Christ

The Challenge & Choice of the Message

Life Change Comes Through Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22–24; Colossians 3:1–3

Our Commitment to the Message

How Will We Respond?

- ✓ Would you realize and understand that the Lord will go to any length to say “This Message is for You?” Today, I plead with you to accept the greatest gift you could ever receive the Gift of Eternal Life? Would give Him your heart & life today? Jesus can bring the life change that you have been seeking. Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **Admit** to God you are a sinner, **Ask** for His forgiveness, **Believe** Jesus is God’s Son, **Confess** Him as Savior & **Commit** Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)
- ✓ Have you asked Christ into your heart but never made it public. Have you not been baptized? You can come & make that decision today public today. He was willing to humble Himself and be obedient, will you?
- ✓ Are you a part of a church family? If not, you need one! Is the Lord calling you to Petal FBC today? Why wait any longer? Step over the line and join us in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ!
- ✓ We all need to pray for the courage to share the Gospel with others so would you pray and open your life to be full of the Holy Spirit so that He can speak through you?
- ✓ Are we as a Church Family deeply committed to this life-changing message so much so that it changes us who are and the way we choose to live our daily lives?
- ✓ May we always be reminded that the Gospel is for everyone everywhere!

THE ACTS: MISSION CONTROL

“The Message That Started It All”

Acts 2:14-36

June 7, 2015 AM Service

We are in a series talking about the early church and its beginnings and what that means for us today. In this section we are talking about the Mission Control – talking a look behind the scenes if you will at what was happening in the early church – taking a look back and pulling back the curtain to see the mission control.

We pick up today where we left off last week – the Holy Spirit had been given to these 120 Followers who had been waiting in Jerusalem and there were 3 incredible signs given including them being able to speak in other known languages that the people who were there from other nations could hear and understand. There was a huge crowd that had gathered and they had questions and looking for answers.

So Peter is going to respond and explain what was happening and really in this short sermon we see one word, one thing, one person – His name is Jesus. I really could stop at that and we could all go home! But we won't! This is the first message that was ever preached in the church and this message is the same message that we are going to share today because it is this message and no other that the Church and Christ Followers should be sharing today – There is one name under heaven by which men might be saved – Jesus! The Church isn't here to bless animals or do just social justice ministries or host meetings or have social gatherings – it is here and was founded on this truth – to share the love and power of the Gospel which is Jesus Christ!

The Cause of the Message – The Culture – Crowd Vs 15

Answers to the Culture's Questions

This is a critical and vital role of the Church – explain to the culture who Jesus is and why He matters in their lives and in our lives!

He tells them – guys let's be practical here – Jews don't drink before 9 a.m. which is what time it was and **2nd they weren't Cajuns** from

Louisiana! Game day in Baton Rouge – early games – oh yes!

Not only that – it was a feast day and no good Jew would be drunk and on top of that was an hour of prayer and they wouldn't be drunk during this

either!

Sometimes we just need to speak practically into people's lives!

Let's remember we have something worth sharing and we have a message that is defensible!

The Courage of the Messenger Vs 14

Check out here the radical transformation in Peter's life from the night that he denied Christ. One person speaking Aramaic stands and though they were all there with him – speaks and explains.

Reflect back on Peter's life the last time he was made fun of, mocked or put to the test. How did he react? Like a coward. (Flesh this out)

Denied Christ three times, just as Jesus said he would

Even the third time, cussing at the servant girl who asked him.

But now empowered by the boldness given through the Holy Spirit his answer is entirely different! A completely different man, transformed!

Look at what it says! **Listen to me, hear my words!**

The same threats, same chance of persecution was there, but something had changed!

An encouraging word to all of us, perhaps you have never asked Christ into your life, no matter what you have done, where you have been, Christ can change you and make you new.

Maybe a Christian and you have walked away from your faith, been disobedient, and think that God won't have you back, you're wrong!

Be encouraged by the life of Peter!

Notice as well that the other eleven are standing with him.

Remember, we are never alone because we are a part of the body Christ.

It may look that way and even feel that way, but now you are not standing and sharing alone!

Boldness in the midst of adversity furthers the gospel.

[Acts 4:13](#); [Ephesians 6:19](#); [Philippians 1:20](#)

The Content & Centrality of the Message – JESUS Vs 16-35

✓ **Explaining the Scripture** – OT – [Joel 2:28-32](#)

Peter does what any faithful preacher does – not give a bunch of good advice and how to's but brings the Scripture (here their Scripture is the OT) to light and explains it is relevant to them - in this case – what did

the Word of God have to say about what was happening and what were they to do about it!

The Beginning of the Last Days Vs 16-18

Explain difference in OT with the Holy Spirit and now

People ask – are we living in the last days and the answer is YES! We have been since the day Jesus ascended!

The End of the Last Days Vs 19-20

We don't think those things happened then so why use this passage? It is about the end of days! The Jews missed them – then and now – saw the Messiah coming and doing both of these at the same time!

This will be fulfilled in [Revelation 6-18](#)

The Hope of the Last Days vs 20-21

Because we are living on those last days Peter says and it echoes even to today - every men and women can call on the name of the Lord and be saved and His Spirit would enter their life forever. It is a day that will eventually end when Christ returns

Jesus is the Fulfillment of the Old Testament.

[Psalms 16](#) [Matthew 13:35](#); [Luke 24:44](#); [Acts 3:18](#)

✓ **Examining the Evidence** – Jesus – Incarnation, etc.

Peter then begins and finishes laying out that God had prepared before time for Jesus to come live, die and rise again and this is the message of the Gospel – Peter lays out the evidence of who Jesus was and is!

His Incarnation Vs 22b

His Authentication Vs 22c

His Crucifixion Vs 23

His Resurrection Vs 24 See [Psalm 16](#) The Witnesses

His Ascension Vs 33

His Glorification Vs 36

Jesus is the Message of the Church.

[2 Corinthians 11:3–5](#); [2 Timothy 1:9–11](#)

The Comprehensiveness of the Message Vs 21

Let's look back to Verse 21 and see what Joel said all the way back in the OT that is still true today. **It's a Whoever Story and Invitation** There is no qualifier, race, status, rich or poor, where you live, who your parents were or are, where you grew up, when you hear – it doesn't matter. The

great news about the message is that is for everyone everywhere. That means if you are hear this morning and you've never understood this message is for you too!

The Claim & Certainty of the Message Vs 36

God Made Him Both Lord and Christ

Let us be clear and it one that grows increasingly less believed and those who do are often called bigoted or too narrow, or not tolerant but Peter here says clearly, that God made a declaration and one that Jesus also made too. He is the Lord and the Christ. Jesus said it in [John 14:6](#) too!

Josh McDowell says in his book *More Than a Carpenter* that you and have to do something with Jesus. We cannot deny he lived on this earth and died and rose again. There is too much overwhelming evidence and we see Peter discuss much of it here. He offers and I agree that we have to say one of three things about Jesus. He isn't some great teacher or a prophet or some great moral man who had some great teachings – His life and His own teaching don't allow room for that! So He is either a Liar, Lunatic or He is the Lord!

The Challenge & Choice of the Message

Life change comes through Jesus.

[2 Corinthians 5:17](#); [Ephesians 4:22–24](#); [Colossians 3:1–3](#)

So let us be clear this morning dear friend – there is a clear challenge offered here from Peter's lips to our own ears this morning. Many of you have already made that decision but there are some here this morning that have not made that decision. Again, let me be clear, not asking if you have joined a church, been religious, been sprinkled or baptized been confirmed, I am asking you clearly just as Peter does this people – do you know Christ as YOUR Savior and Lord – have you made that life-changing decision that changed your life forever? If not you can do that today! ABC's

Our Commitment to the Message

Petal FBC Family – we must be so committed to this message and only this message. It must drive us to share it to sacrifice in order to share it, to be willing to go anywhere and share it anytime. The message must be about Jesus. How we share the message may change, the environment in which we do that but one thing never changes – JESUS!