

Acts 2:12 – 38 – Let me Explain

The last paragraph finished on the statement “Let me explain”.(NIV) Today we are going to look at that explanation Peter gave. Over the past couple of years I have asked my dad to give me some explanations of how things have happened in his life. My dad has lived a pretty tough life, brought up with a minister as a dad in the apostolic church, what was in the plate was what they lived on and many times there was not enough. Dad worked for youth for Christ for 25 odd years and it was a faith mission. If money came in you got paid if not you didn't. I asked recently why. I don't remember the exact words but I got one of those very fatherly “Let me explain something to you” talks. He explained it was what he felt called to do, and he wanted to do what was right. He has made a ministry out of it.

So what is it that Peter wanted to explain – it is the same thing that my mum wants to explain to people – all about Jesus.

Notice Peter used what they knew to explain it. The prophet Joel.

AC 2:14 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. ¹⁵ These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

He starts off saying we aren't drunk – he defends himself and the disciples.

The significant thing here is we can defend our actions and beliefs. This is a clear statement rebutting an accusation.

Saying basically – “Those who make those accusations are wrong”.

Here is something I think is important in this day and age - **We can defend ourselves.** We can say what we believe and why we believe. So often these days Christians are treated like we have no right to opinion. WE do.

But notice where he takes it next.

16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: Joel 2:28-30

He uses what they know. These people were Jews or converts to Judaism. They knew their scriptures, what we call the Old Testament. So the words would have been familiar. Notice too in Jesus preaching and parables, he uses what people know and things they identify with. This is part of the reason I am passionate about sport ministry. Aussie blokes know sport, then let's use sport to tell them Jesus loves 'em. It may be different for whatever each of us are involved in. Not just leisure either. The best people to talk to farmers about Jesus is probably other farmers. The best people to talk to uni students about Jesus is probably uni students, the best people to talk to senior citizens is probably

senior citizens. The best people to talk to young mum's about Jesus is probably other young mums.

Use what you know for God's kingdom.

Listen to Peter's speech here, it is mind boggling.

**AC 2:17 " `In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,
your young men will see visions,
your old men will dream dreams.**

**AC 2:18 Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.**

**AC 2:19 I will show wonders in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.**

**AC 2:20 The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.**

**AC 2:21 And everyone who calls
on the name of the Lord will be saved.'**

Notice here that the Spirit is the focus. *V17, 18*. It is "My Spirit" in Joel and it is Yahweh's spirit of God's Spirit.

The prophecy's, the visions and the dreams are provided by God's direction!!!! Yep that's what we want as individuals. I have a bit of a thing about church visions. I believe we need to tap into the individuals dreams and visions and prophecies to see where God is leading the people so we can get alongside them and support them. That's a church's job. Anyway that is a bit of a hobby horse for me and we don't have time to unpack that now.

It is the Spirit of God doing the miracles, the wonders and providing the prophecy. Oh this is real exciting and it is really exciting now because the same Spirit, the same God is interactive with our life right now.

It is the Spirit of God which God will pour on His people.

Last week we had the image of the Holy Spirit immersing us,
this week the image is the Holy Spirit being poured out for us, on us, over us.

I think the idea is getting fully soaked in the Holy Spirit. Fully soaked in God.

Notice that men and women, servants, young and old – there is no distinction – God's Spirit is given to who.

Notice too that v18 states *and they will prophesy*.

This word prophecy is a bit different from our usual understanding. It is not **only** a tell the future concept, a foretelling but also a forth telling or telling it like it is.

Most of the Old Testament prophets basically preached or told forth God's message. Much the same as our present day preaching. That was their main work. With that they told of consequences of sin and God way of dealing with that sin. Theologically it's the way God redeems his people and things like that. These consequences God made happen, the positive ones and the negative ones.

From the feeling of this passage, this part of the message may refer more to a forth telling, a preaching rather than a telling of future events.

A concept of witnessing. After all that is what Peter was doing, preaching. Or proclaiming. It is also interesting that it says that men and women will be doing this prophesying or preaching. Actually young people and old people.

This verse causes some people some anguish but all christians are responsible to tell forth the news of Jesus!!

I have a bit of an issue that there are not enough young blokes and young women preaching and proclaiming. The other thing is that there are no where near as many preaching stations to give young people a first go. Someone believed in me enough to give me a go. We have to be giving people a chance to use their gifts. And more than that – people need to be telling people.

Why is this important. Well look at the next verse.

All who call upon the name of the Lord.

AC 2:21 *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

It is interesting. We assume that it takes a huge commitment to come to Jesus. But here it says – call on His name.

Tell people, give them a chance to call on the Lord and their eternity changes. Whether it is preached, told over coffee, told at footy training, however – it changes lives and eternities. That is why people like Arthur Stace wrote the word eternity on the footpaths of Sydney. He believed God could change people's eternity, he wanted people to think about it.

See, Salvation and the presence of the Spirit go together. Although there are a couple of cases that are mentioned where for some reason the Holy Spirit was given later. (Acts 8 :9 – 24) And we will look at them in later weeks. But generally speaking – the usual way of it is. **Call on the Lord = salvation = The Holy Spirit's presence in that persons life.**