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Leader Study Guide

Week of Easter 2: April 23-29; Acts 2:22-33

Intro Question

When did you feel nervous to do something in front of a large group of people? Maybe name 1-2 of the events that made you most nervous.

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Text (NRSV)

²² “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power.²⁵ For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope.

27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

28 You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

29 “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31

Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.

Questions

● Observation Questions

- Who is speaking? Who is the audience?
- What can we say about this event? When is it?
- Peter has just quoted Joel 2 about signs in heaven testifying that what the audience is seeing is the “last day” that was prophesied by the prophet Joel. What has characterized the “last days” thus far in Acts 2?
- What do we know about the “Israelites” up to this point in Luke-Acts?
- How was Jesus attested to the people of God? Did anyone question this?
- But what happened to the Messiah according to Peter and why was this surprising?

- Who is culpable for Jesus' death according to Peter?
- Why did Jesus not stay dead?
- Take a moment to read Psalm 16:8-11 and Psalm 132:11-12. How do these verses help you understand Peter's argument?
- What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection and how should the listeners respond?
- What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection with regard to the "democratization" of the giving of the Holy Spirit? Who did the Holy Spirit come to in the Old Testament? [Hint: only prophets and kings :)]
- **Application Questions**
 - What culpability do we have in the death of Christ? This might be obvious, but it is worth taking some time to mull over.
 - Christ's resurrection was central for both the giving of the Holy Spirit and for Him to be the object of faith. List out the areas of our life which require repentance and faith.
 - Where would Jesus' resurrection affect our hearts and lives? What are the spheres of influence we have?
 - List places which may take more careful and frequent repentance.
 - What would it mean for us to be bold in sharing our changed lives with those around us in very tangible ways? How do we begin calling friends and neighbors to faith in Christ?

Prayer