

Acts: Cut to the heart

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Ambassadors Sunday Morning Community

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Acts 2:37-40 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation."

Discussion Questions:

The Truth of the gospel hurts but it leads to healing and renewal - vs 37-38

1. What was said by Peter that cut deep to the heart of his hearers?
2. Describe your earliest memory when the truth of the gospel cut to your heart. What was going on in your life?
3. In today's culture, what truths of the gospel effect & affect the hearts of hearers?

The Truth of the gospel is inclusive - vs 39

1. Would Peter's audience have viewed this promise being for everyone or only for Israel?
2. How does today's culture see the gospel of Jesus? For everyone or certain people?

The Truth of the gospel leads to action - vs 40

1. What was the cost to follow Jesus in the 1st century?
2. What is the cost today?
3. Why do our affections need to be effected for the gospel to change our life?

Devotional Classics – Jonathan Edwards excerpt from Religious Affections

A person who has knowledge of doctrine and theology only-without religious affection-has never engaged in true religion. Nothing is more apparent than this: our religion takes route within us only as deep as our affections attract it. There are thousands who hear the Word of God, who hear great and exceedingly important truths about themselves and their lives, and yet all they hear has no effect upon them, makes no change in the way they live.

The reason is this: they are not affected with what they hear. There are many who hear about the power, holiness, and the wisdom of God; about Christ and the great things that he has

done for them and his gracious invitation to them; and yet they remain exactly as they are in life and in practice.

I am bold in saying this, but I believe that no one is ever changed, either by doctrine, by hearing the Word, or by the preaching or teaching of another, unless the affections are moved by these things. No one ever seeks salvation, no one ever cries for wisdom, no one ever wrestles with God, no one ever kneels in prayer or flees from sin, with a heart that remains unaffected. In a word, there is never any great achievement by the things of religion without a heart deeply affected by those things.