

Chat with the Children

- On sharing
 - if you share a cake, it gets smaller...
 - if you share news, it doesn't!
- Task of sharing some news around the congregation
 - how many people are here today?
 - how long would it take one person to take the message to each person individually?
- **Been given good news to share:**
 - if we don't all play our part, then it falls on a few and won't happen!

Introduction

- My attention was drawn to a disturbing statistic during this past week:
 - the number of admissions to membership in the whole Church of Scotland in 2013 by profession of faith: **1485 (graph)**
 - (contrast the 3000 or so added on the day of Pentecost **v.41**)
- What is the drive/purpose in Peter's speaking?
 - empowered/prompted now by the Spirit's coming?
 - **mission, go, be witness...**
- Peter and the other apostles here model the journey that missionaries invite people to take
 - we are missionaries to our contacts, culture and context...

God is at Work

- First, Peter - **starting with what people are seeing around them** - points to that fact that God is at work
 - the crowd had been drawn because **"we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues"**
 - not just a common commotion; saw something of God at work
 - yet some saw only drunkenness, saw only disorder!
- Peter points them to Joel's prophecy of the Spirit's coming
 - says, in effect, "you say we are drunk; isn't a more plausible explanation of what you see that God is at work, as he has promised in his Word?"
 - normal people, Galilean fishermen, will have God's Spirit living in them - not just for the very special prophets, but on **all** my servants!
- How do we connect? Where do people see God at work?
 - in coincidence and providence, in death and dying, in suffering, in kindness, in meaning/meaninglessness, in parenting, in miracle and surprise...

The answer is Jesus!

- Second, he directs the people's attention to Jesus:
 - for he **is** the answer, even if that wasn't quite the question they were asking to start with!
- No indication these people were particularly wondering about who Jesus was:
 - sure, they probably did round the time he rode into Jerusalem, cleared the Temple;
 - almost certainly caught up in the gossip as he was crucified...
 - but he was dead now, had been for weeks... fading from thought?
- But Peter says:

- what you see of God at work now is linked with Jesus;
- he summarises Jesus' **life** (v.22, man, miracles), his **death** (v.23, handed over, God's purpose, crucified), his **resurrection** (v.24ff, including OT Scriptural backing) and his **exaltation** (v.33)
- It is in him and through him that God is at work, no other way!
 - if you see God at work, then you need to trust that it is through Jesus!

You crucified him!

- Next step is the horrendous jump to realising that they were responsible for Jesus' death:
 - God is at work... through this Jesus... who **you crucified!**
- **As did we through our sin!**

So repent!

- Turn from sin, accept Jesus as Saviour
- What is repentance?
- Pleaded with them to turn, to change, to save themselves!

Conclusion

- Do people look at us and see God at work?
- Do we explain ourselves - those whose Lord is Jesus?
- Do we confront their sin (or accomodate it)?
- Do we challenge to repentance?
- All in the Spirit's power!