

THE BOOK OF ACTS

January 6, 2019

Acts 2:37-41

READ

Acts 2:37-41 (Review Acts 2:14-36) Romans 8

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. Several years ago, W.W.J.D. (What Would Jesus Do?) was a popular catchphrase. What initial question is raised in our text (v. 37)? What is the impetus behind this question?
2. Have you ever had a “pierced to the heart” experience? Are you willing to share it?
3. Peter immediately responds to their question with a twofold command (v. 38a). They are to _____ . What is so important about the conjunction “and” in the first part of the verse?
4. Who first raised the issue of repentance (Matthew 3:1-2, 8, 11)? What was Jesus’ follow up message (Matthew 4:17)? What is the appropriate reaction to our sin (c.f., Acts 8:22)? Is such a reaction automatic or even reflexive (Luke 17:3; Hebrews 12:17)? How do we know that some within the crowd did repent (c.f., v. 41)?
5. What does it mean to repent? What does repentance require of you? (Describe repentance negatively. Describe repentance positively.)
6. What does the word “baptized” literally mean? How does the meaning of the word fit with the description of baptism in Romans 6:4 & Colossians 2:12?
7. What is the significance of “in the name of Jesus Christ”? Is this a formula for baptism (words to be said over a baptism) or something else (something more)?

8. Peter also promises a twofold result in response to the commands in v. 38b: _____

_____.

What is the scope of this promise (v. 39)?

9. Who first connected repentance, baptism and the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:4)?

10. Why do some people have no trouble with the idea that repentance is directly connected to forgiveness of sins (c.f., Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19), yet seem to have difficulty with connecting *baptism* to forgiveness of sins (c.f., Ephesians 2:8-9)? If baptism is a work, whose work is it? (Does that make a difference?) Does Colossians 2:12 help clarify? Is baptism a man-thing or a God-thing? (Does that make a difference?) (Peter also expresses baptism in the passive voice. Baptism isn't, therefore, something you do but is done to you; you allow it to happen, you don't cause it to happen. In other words, it isn't your work; you merely submit to it.)

11. Why the gift of the Holy Spirit? Read through Romans 8 and note the importance & relevance of the Holy Spirit in your life.

12. Peter's admonition is to be saved from this perverse generation (v. 40; c.f., Galatians 1:4). Why state it this way? What should be my attitude toward, or place within, this generation (James 4:4; Philippians 2:15)?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. I will seek the path of repentance this week by . . .

2. I will be open to the influence of the Holy Spirit this week by . . .

3. I will seek to shine as a light this week by . . .