



**Dear Crossroads Family,**

Several years ago on Memorial Day, I was working out at Gold's Gym and a pastor friend of mine who served a church of another denomination asked me, "Did you have a good birthday celebration yesterday?" At first I didn't know what he was talking about. We had had a good service Sunday celebrating Memorial Day, but it was neither my birthday nor anyone else's that I could think of. Then it dawned on me: Memorial Day weekend was the same weekend as the celebration of Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the church. We had remembered to honor those who gave their lives in service to our country, which we should do, but we had completely forgotten one of the most important events in the history of our faith.

Pentecost was, of course, one of the three Jewish Festivals that brought Jews from all over the world to celebrate in Jerusalem. God may have chosen that particular Sunday for the giving of His Spirit resulting in the birthday of the church for several reasons. Pentecost celebrated the end of the barley harvest and the "first fruits" of the wheat harvest. The arrival of the Spirit marked the first fruits of a spiritual harvest. Additionally, Jewish tradition had strongly linked Pentecost with the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai. At Sinai, God gave the Law on tablets of stone (Exodus 19-20). At Pentecost, God gave the "Law of the Spirit" (**Romans 8:2**) written on human hearts, fulfilling the prophecy in **Jeremiah 31:33**. The physical signs at Pentecost—wind and fire—closely mirror the thunder, lightning, and fire that accompanied God's descent on Sinai. But maybe most importantly, while the permanent population of Jerusalem was about 30,000 to 50,000 people in the early 1<sup>st</sup> century, during the festival Jerusalem would be crowded with 150,000 to 300,000 people—Jews from the diaspora, "*Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs*" (**Acts 2:9-11**). What an opportunity for the gospel to begin to spread to the entire world!

Peter didn't miss the opportunity. He preached what must be consider one of the most impactful messages in Christian history. About 3,000 people were saved that day and followed the Lord in baptism. This Sunday we will be looking at a portion of his message to see why it was so impactful and what it means to us today. I hope you will be present for Bible study and worship as we consider "The Sermon that Changed the World." (Sermon notes are included below.)

See you Sunday!

Love,

Bro. Doug

PS., Pentecost Sunday falls on Memorial Day weekend this year. Let's look forward to the celebration of both important holidays.

## ***The Sermon that Changed the World***

***Acts 2:22-26 & 37-41***

On Pentecost Sunday, May \_\_\_, AD \_\_\_, Peter preached to about 10-15,000 people at the Temple in Jerusalem. On that day 3,000 people became Christ followers, and that crusade fueled the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christianity throughout the world. His sermon is recorded in Acts 2.

The heartbeat of Peter's message is the singular, supreme truth: The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ has come in the person of \_\_\_\_\_. Let's focus on these two titles.

The formal meaning of the word, Lord, is one who has \_\_\_\_\_ over persons, so, “\_\_\_\_\_,” and in religious usage as a designation and personal title for \_\_\_\_\_. So, we owe Jesus total \_\_\_\_\_ and complete \_\_\_\_\_. The other title for Jesus is Messiah or Christ. It means the person God has chosen and empowered to \_\_\_\_\_ His people from the oppression of worldly powers. The title, “Messiah,” refers to what Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ for us. He has made a way for the forgiveness of our sins. The title, “Lord,” refers to our \_\_\_\_\_ toward Him, submission to His authority.

When they heard that message, it was like being stabbed in the heart. How can you \_\_\_\_\_ from crucifying God's Messiah? Peter's answer was simple. A person must \_\_\_\_\_, the sign of which is \_\_\_\_\_. To “repent” means to choose a whole new \_\_\_\_\_. It is to choose Him as your Messiah who carried your sins to the cross and then begin to submit to Him as the Lord of your life.

Our biggest challenge is making Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ or Master. But Jesus said He is the truth and the truth will set you \_\_\_\_\_. How can repenting and submitting to His Lordship set you free? You are only free to get the life results and eternal life results you desire by submitting to the rules—the Lordship—of your \_\_\_\_\_. To repent is to affirm a change of mind—that \_\_\_\_\_ no longer my Lord, nor is the \_\_\_\_\_ my Lord. Jesus, God's Messiah who rescues from the worldly power of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, is my Lord!

---

### **A Few Announcements:**

National Marriage Week, begins tomorrow February 7 and continues through February 14. There are seven broadcasts of virtual live events (one broadcast/day) that will be offered this week focusing on building the foundation of purpose together as a couple. On the last day of National Marriage Week, February 14th, couples are encouraged to go out or spend time alone together. In addition, there is a challenge for couples to discuss how they might serve one another better, and how they can come together to find an opportunity to serve the world around them. For more information and to register, go to [marriageweek.org](http://marriageweek.org).

A Valentine's Banquet will be held Friday, February 13, from 6:00-9:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets are \$15.00/person and will be available for purchase Sunday, February 8 before and after the Worship Service. All proceeds will go to the youth for their summer camp. See flyer for more details.

The time for the Sunday Night Service on February 8 will be moved up to 4:00 pm, for Super Bowl Sunday.

---

***Dr. Doug Diehl  
San Antonio, TX 78254***