

Take-Home 10: Repent and Be Baptized

Keep praying your surrender prayer from the shore.

WHAT WE FOUND

Do the arithmetic: fifty days. Seven weeks after crumbling before a servant girl, in the same city, among the same authorities, “Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice” to thousands. Time did not do that; resolve did not do that (resolve is what failed at the fire); the Holy Spirit did that, descending in tongues as of fire at nine in the morning. Grace did not replace Peter with someone else; it made Peter finally himself, the rock the name had promised. He opened Joel’s oracle: the Spirit poured out on all flesh, and its final line stopped us cold: “And it shall be that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21). We had watched a sinking man do exactly that, in three words, eight sessions ago. The man preaching the promise is the man who lived it: the Church’s first preacher at Pentecost is the Gospel’s proof of concept.

The sermon’s spine was the kerygma itself: this Jesus you crucified; God raised him up; God has made him both Lord and Christ. The truth cut the crowd to the heart, and they asked history’s question: “Brethren, what shall we do?” And the man who had lived every word gave the answer: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Repentance he learned weeping; the washing he was once too proud to accept when Jesus knelt with the basin; the Spirit that had filled him that morning. Three thousand were baptized, and salvation landed them where it lands everyone: devoted “to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42): the Church, with the Eucharist at its heart, from day one. And the beach explained the morning: surrender precedes sending. What God pours through surrendered people is proportioned not to their strength but to their availability.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Cyril of Jerusalem | *Catechetical Lectures*, 17

The one who had denied before a little maid now, clothed with power from on high, catches three thousand souls in a single cast of the net. No natural cause turns that man into this man in fifty days; the Spirit is known by what He made of the fisherman.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

In the spirit of St. Irenaeus of Lyons | cf. *Against Heresies*, Book III (editorial synthesis)

Irenaeus insisted that what the Church hands on is no secret doctrine but the public apostolic preaching: the crucified and risen Jesus, Lord and Christ, proclaimed openly by Spirit-filled eyewitnesses.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Ambrose of Milan / *On the Mysteries*

What you saw with your eyes was water; what was accomplished in you was the power of God: sin truly forgiven, the old man buried, the Spirit given, just as Peter promised the crowds.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

1. Pray daily and explicitly to the Holy Spirit: “Come, Holy Spirit; do in me what you did in Peter.” If it scares you a little, pray it anyway.
2. Take one concrete step on the phrase of Acts 2:38 that has your name on it: baptism, Confirmation, real repentance, Confession, or intentional Communion within the 2:42 community this Sunday.
3. Tell one person one true sentence about what Jesus has done for you in these ten weeks. One sentence, your own words, during business hours.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of

your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2:38 (RSV2CE)

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read Acts 4:1-22 and Acts 10:9-35.

Catechism references from tonight: CCC 1226, 731-732, 1076.