

# Sermon Handout

## Aligning with Jesus

### Acts 2:37-40

#### I. The Gospel and “Anti-Semitism”

- a. Jews & Gentiles equally guilty before God Acts 17:30-31; 26:20; Mt 27:26-27
- b. The Jew had less excuse (Rom 3:1-2) but all must repent
- c. Peter’s messages in Acts 2 & 3 are preached to Jews of Jerusalem  
These specific Jews were particularly complicit (Mt 27)  
Hence, Peter’s “you have crucified” v. 36 *cf.* v. 23
- d. Jews today are no more complicit than any other sinner  
All men’s sins compelled “the determinate counsel . . . of God” v. 23

#### II. The Call to Repent vv. 37-39

- a. “What shall we do?” This was an admission of guilt (*cf.* v. 36)  
*See* 3:13-14 and 4:26-28; Mt 20:18-19; 27:15-26  
The crowd demanded that Jesus be crucified 27:20-25
- b. Repentance is inseparable from the gospel
  - i. John the Baptist Mt 3:2
  - ii. Jesus Mt 4:17; Lk 13:2-5 (in Galilee and Jerusalem)
  - iii. Reflecting the prophets e.g. Ezek 18:25-32
- c. The theme throughout Acts  
Acts 3:12-21; 8:20-22; 17:24-31; 20:17-21; 26:19-21  
Note: in Acts 26:21 Jewish leadership still unrepentant
- d. “The promise” v. 39  
Ties back to Acts 1:8 “the wider mission of the gospel”  
**All** are called to repent & align themselves with Jesus  
For Samaria, *see* Acts 8:9, 22

#### III. The Call to Align with Jesus “be baptized in the name of Jesus” v. 37

- a. The parallel is “be converted” 3:19 (“turn about”)  
Peter calls the Jews to acknowledge as Christ, the one they helped kill.
- b. Different descriptions of baptism
  - i. “in the name of Jesus” 2:38; 10:48
  - ii. “into the name of Jesus” 8:16 (*cf.* 8:12); 19:5  
Becoming Jesus’ property
  - iii. “into the . . . Father, Son & Holy Ghost” Mt 28:19