

Eastertide 2017 Sunday 7th May, 2017

4th Sunday of Easter

A Meditation based on Acts 2:14, 36-41
They were cut to the heart

Here it was, Peter's very first sermon, and what did he say? He preached the heart of the gospel message. He spoke about Jesus – how he performed miracles, how he was put to death, and how he rose from the dead for our salvation. Then he brought everything to a grand conclusion: "God has made both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36). Luke tells us that when the people heard these words, they were "cut to the heart" (2:37).

We all know what it means to be cut to the heart. We see or hear something stirring, and we feel moved to do something about it right away. It's like the way we feel when we hear about a family that has tragically lost a loved one. We feel very sad for that family. Our pierced hearts go out to them, and we feel moved to treasure our own families even more.

Can any message cut us to the heart more dramatically than the gospel? What can compare to the story of a God who loves us so much that he sent his only Son to rescue us from sin – at the cost of his own life? What can compare to hearing that we have the hope of eternal life if we just turn from sin and turn to Jesus?

Whether we are at peace with God or not, whether we are full of faith or weakened by doubts, whether we feel confident in life or overwhelmed by our challenges, recalling this message has the power to touch us and move us closer to Jesus.

Why? Because the gospel message helps us to see our lives from a heavenly perspective. It tells us that we are destined for something wonderful. It moves us to try a little harder to be pleasing to the Lord.

So make a promise today: "I will never let a day go by without remembering and trusting in the good news that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life'" (John 3:16)

Pray... "Come, Holy Spirit; fill my heart and my mind with the gospel message. Move me to do whatever you ask."

