

Daily Devotion, Tuesday, August 4, 2020

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Acts 2:37-47

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home^[c] and ate their food with glad and generous^[d] hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This reading follows the world changing events of the Church’s first Pentecost, and St. Peter’s preaching to the people about our Lord and Savior, the Christ. The people are in awe. The lesson says in verse 37, “they were cut to the heart”. The crowds wanted to know what they needed to do next. “Repent, and be baptized” is St. Peter’s response. In being baptized, we are promised to have our sins forgiven, and the gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Is there anything better? Can we ask anything more from God? We do these things that are not in alignment with God’s will, and when we ask for God’s forgiveness, it is always there for us. The beauty of the Holy Spirit being present in our lives is that this promise of forgiveness never goes away. The Holy Spirit reminds us to turn to God, and as we humble ourselves before our Creator, we are received in love. I needed to hear this message today. If any of you needed to hear it, then we will thank God for it together.