Why The Urgency?

Ken Chapman · Acts 2:36–41

INTRODUCTION

- Some things are more important than others, aren't they?
- But other matters are even more important that we attach to them not simply priority, but a sense of immediacy, a sense of urgency.
- When we read from the book of Acts, which sometimes has been called or subtitled the Book of Conversions.

1 In Every Account, Baptism As Soon As Possible

Acts 2:41; Acts 8:36–38; Acts 16:25–34

- Then those who gladly received his word were baptized, and that day about 3,000 souls were added to them.
- And the eunuch said, See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?
- In every account of conversion, there was baptism, and it was administered as soon as possible.
- He took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes, and immediately he and all his family were baptized.

2 They Recognized Their Guilt Before God

Acts 2:23; Acts 2:36–37

- Surely those who insisted upon their baptism being administered immediately, they recognize their guilt before God.
- Gospel preaching must first convict us of our sins.
- We are not lost because we have not been baptized. We are lost because we have sinned against God.
- Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.
- They were cut to the heart. And cried out, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

3 Baptism Was the Point of Forgiveness

Mark 16:16; Acts 2:40–41

- Surely the unmistakable conclusion of gospel preaching was this that baptism was the point of forgiveness.
- If it's that important. Even if I have to take this whole thing apart and start over, I better put it where it belongs.
- He who believes and is baptized will be saved. He who does not believe will be condemned.
- These men were teaching what Jesus had told them to teach. That baptism was the point of forgiveness.
- When were they forgiven? They knew when. And that's why there was a sense of urgency.

4 They Recognized the Uncertainty of Life

- Surely they were baptized because they recognized the uncertainty of life. James compares life to a vapor.
- Those obituary pages are not just filled with people who died at the ripe old age of whatever you consider a ripe old age. But there's people middle aged, teenagers, college age, children.
- If somewhere in the sermon you were cut to the heart, cry out. What shall I do?
- Because Scott may not have lived through that service.

5 Delay Is Addictive

- Possibly they recognize that delay is addictive.
- Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy talks about those who have seared their conscience to where they're past feeling.
- But then the next time you didn't have to grip it quite as hard, did you? And then the third time you barely had to hold that pew.
- I've said no so many times that now the no is implied.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Why not today? Why not now? There is a sense of urgency. And it's on you. Would you respond to that gospel call?**

MY NOTES