

Hearts Pierced and Prepared for Him

*“Therefore let **all the house of Israel know assuredly**, that God hath made **the same Jesus**, whom **ye have crucified**, both Lord and Christ.’ Now when they heard this, they were **pricked in their heart**, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’” (Acts 2:36-37)*

Part of the “feel” of the First Church, which was birthed after Peter’s speech in Acts Chapter Two, was the fear of the Lord by which they were “pricked in their hearts.” These people saw what they had done to Jesus – God’s Christ and the Lord. They each felt the depth of that personally, like Peter did. Peter’s words in Acts chapter two pierced them through like Jesus’ eyes pierced Peter through (Luke 22:60-62).

The residual shock of it was upon the land of all the disciples’ hearts, each who, in an intimately personal way, had fled and left Jesus alone in His suffering and crucifixion. Who had beheld Judas’ betrayal and consequent suicide. Who had known of the vicious death cast upon Him by all the people. People they knew. People everywhere who had all witnessed and been involved in the event of Jesus’ shameful death. The volume of the book testified of the One, and of how He would be treated, but it was never personal until this moment. It was a Psalm of David, or a deep prophecy, or laws to be studied – until they realized they missed it all, and had crucified the Lord’s Christ. It had unfolded around them, and they were party to it, and never saw.

The sky must have been heavy with this feel when the disciples sat together in the upper room, in fear and trembling. Their hearts soaked in it for days and days. The evidence was overwhelming. The effect of this season of “owning” what had just happened to God’s beloved Son at their hands was having a great impact on their hearts. Yet their hearts were being prepared for something more than just a salvation “experience.” Their hearts were soon to be confronted with the Jesus they had failed coming as God’s Lord and Christ, and wonder of all wonders... **desiring to dwell within them.**

The result of being dealt with by God in ways painful yet needful prepared these men and woman to become **the very body of the One** they had so utterly failed. God allowed them to own their actions towards His Son, to seethe in the reality of it for a season long enough to make them ready for Him in ways that were needful and glorious. The evidence was too fresh and irrefutable for anyone to justify their guilt in regards how God's Son was treated. There was no retreat into self-vindication or rationalization. It was time to humble oneself, to break before the Lord, to *"look upon Him whom they have pierced, and mourn for Him, as one mourneth for his only son, and be in bitterness for Him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn"* (Zechariah 12:10).

How amazing to see the prophesy in Zechariah 12:10 being fulfilled in Acts chapter two! These scriptures in Zechariah go on to say that, *"In that day there shall be a GREAT MOURNING in Jerusalem."* This time of mourning is not a time of crying over personal sins and failures, all of which are self-focused. Rather, this is a time of focusing on HIM, the One Whom we have pierced, and letting that "prick our hearts" in such depth that HE will be ministered to and received in ways needful for HIM.

When the Spirit came at Pentecost and set these hearts on fire, they were ready for new life... the Slain Lamb's LIFE! And after God had filled Peter with the Spirit at Pentecost, Peter's speech was energized by the power of the Crucified in the ears of all who heard. Glory! Oh, what a receiving of HIM, the Lamb that was slain, happened in the hearts of all those who heard and received.

If we look at the first church, and what they went through in preparation to receive Christ as their Life, we may be a little more willing to yield to the conviction and dealings of God as He prepares us as the dwelling place of His Son. It is our HEARTS, and not our heads, that God is trying to reach. **Our hearts will never be reached deep enough** when it is our sins that are the focus. Our mourning and tears will only be poured over ourselves and our lack. But when we see what we did and do to Jesus, **and behold "Him whom we have pierced"** ... something happens in our hearts that brings a great mourning and opens us in ways like never before to receive that Lamb as our very Life.

So be it Lord! Deal with us according to thine own Heart.

In Jesus' name. Amen.