

Acts 2:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

The crowd's response - 'pricked in their heart' (Greek 'katenugēsan,' pierced through) - demonstrates the Spirit's convicting work through preached word. Their question 'What shall we do?' reveals genuine repentance, not mere remorse. The address 'Men and brethren' shows respectful desperation, acknowledging apostolic authority. Conviction that produces inquiry marks saving faith; those merely offended reject the message (Acts 7:54).

Historical Context

This heart-piercing occurred among Jesus' crucifiers - the very crowd that cried 'Crucify Him!' weeks earlier. Their transformation from mockers to mourners illustrates grace's power. The question 'What shall we do?' echoes John the Baptist's hearers (Luke 3:10), showing prophetic ministry's continuity.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish Spirit-wrought conviction from mere emotional manipulation in evangelism?
2. What does the crowd's movement from mockery (v. 13) to conviction (v. 37) teach about persevering in witness?

Interlinear Text

Ἀκούσαντες	δὲ	κατενύγησαν	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	εἶπόν	τε	
when they heard	Now	this they were pricked	G3588	in their heart	said	and	
G191	G1161	G2660		G2588	G2036	G5037	
πρὸς	τὸν	Πέτρον	καὶ	τοὺς	λοιποὺς	ἀποστόλους	Τί
unto	G3588	Peter	and	G3588	to the rest	of the apostles	what
G4314		G4074	G2532	G3062	G652		G5101
ποιήσομεν,	ἄνδρες	ἀδελφοί					
shall we do	Men	and brethren					
G4160	G435	G80					

Additional Cross-References

Luke 3:10 (Parallel theme): And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?

Acts 22:10 (Parallel theme): And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do.

John 8:9 (Parallel theme): And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

Zechariah 12:10 (Parallel theme): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as

one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Luke 3:12 (Parallel theme): Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?

Luke 3:14 (Parallel theme): And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.

Ezekiel 7:16 (Parallel theme): But they that escape of them shall escape, and shall be on the mountains like doves of the valleys, all of them mourning, every one for his iniquity.

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