

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

Ακούσαντες δὲ κατενύγησαν τῇ καρδίᾳ εἰπόν 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 Peter and 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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