

## Transforming Lives Acts 2:37-39

There are two biblical words that we need to think about; condemnation and conviction. We sometimes confuse the two; discouraging words are not always condemnation. We have to allow for the convicting of the Holy Spirit. Transformation in a person's life cannot come apart from the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes we categorize everything negative as condemnation and in doing so we ignore the person of the Holy Spirit when He is trying to bring correction in our lives. Are we people of the way or are we just in the way? Has your faith in Jesus Christ caused you some discomfort this week? It's easy to stand up and be counted within the church, but it's time for us to stand up 'out there', in the world. Are we willing to be known as Jesus "freaks"? There are churches that have entire services without ever mentioning the name of Jesus once. Peter's message in Acts was Jesus. We can falter or fail or even deny Jesus, but there is hope that it can still be turned around and the name of Jesus can be declared. What is the message that you want to declare from your life? Each of us is declaring something with our lives by how we live it in front of others. We can tell others what we are not but can we tell them what we are, what we are about? Are we about Jesus Christ? Who's logo are we wearing? We are not ashamed to support a political party but would we willingly post an "*I support Jesus Christ*" or "*I volunteer for the cause of Jesus Christ*" sign on our front lawns? It's about transforming people's lives by the power of the Christ. Have we forgotten that unless people know Jesus Christ heaven cannot be their home? Peter took the time to preach repentance and salvation and many were 'cut to the heart' aka convicted of their sin, and asked, "What must we do?" when was the last time we heard the word of God preached and asked that same question in response? Repent and be baptized every one of you, was Peter's answer. That's a 180° change. That's transformation. What is the message of Living Way? It's Jesus Christ saves, He transforms; He is the great Transformer. He cares, He shares, He prepares, and because He does, we do; we care, we share, and we prepare people to go into eternity, ourselves included. People expect to get free stuff from company reps but it all has their logo on it. We are Jesus reps. Does everything we give out have Jesus on it? What do we have to offer? Jesus **Matt. 10:8**. We have everything in Him; an inflow for an outflow. Are we any different from the world? Aren't we looking to get more stuff? Have we forgotten about Jesus, about the cross? He is the message. He has given a mandate, instructions to all those who are called. **Matt. 28:18-20** yet we have forgotten, or for the most part we are not living it. The message is Jesus, the mandate is clear, we are to go out but it involves our will, we must acknowledge Him as Lord and Saviour. Is He Lord of you? He earned that right when He left heaven and spent 33 1/2 years living in this sinful world to make pave the way for us back to the Father. Another thing we seem to have forgotten is that He is coming back again. We need to live in the expectation of His soon return. The plowing match is over and the logos are coming down, when our lives are over who will they say we represented most? Will those who know us best be able to say, "He represented Jesus well," "She represented Jesus well."? Perhaps some of us need to recommit ourselves to the cause today. As long as we have breath we have a duty to share the message of Jesus Christ. Enough with the excuses of why we can't! By the power of the

Holy Spirit we **can**. The entertainment stuff is over, it's time to present Jesus, to present salvation to the world and we can only do that through the power and unction of the Holy Spirit. Peter's message was not only repentance, it was not only salvation through Jesus Christ, it was also the promise of the Holy Spirit, who will come and dwell within us and be our helper. It is time to stand up and be counted; *I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation...* **Rom.1:16**. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is my Lord and Saviour, is He yours?