

Rise Up! Rise Up and Speak!

April 17, 2016 / Jeff Gunn

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,
“The Lord said to my Lord:
“Sit at my right hand
³⁵ until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”
³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”
³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”
³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.
Acts 2:29-41, NIV

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promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. ³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. v. 29-32

Peter saw a decisive moment as an opportunity to find the _____ with his audience.

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” v. 36

Peter released the 500 lb. _____. He was unafraid and unapologetic to be “_____ in _____.”

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” v. 37

Peter cared about what was best for these people, so he spoke in a way that _____ the _____.

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Peter called his audience toward personal _____ and God’s promise of _____ through Jesus Christ.

MEMORY VERSE

¹⁵ My mouth will tell of your righteous deeds, of your saving acts all day long—though I know not how to relate them all.
Psalm 71:15, NIV

Bottom line: The gospel prevails when we rise up and speak it.

What’s your next step today? Mark it on your Communication Card

Growth Group Learning Activity for 4/17 - 4/23

Quick Review: Looking back to Sunday, is there something about the message that caught your attention or made you think differently about God or his Word?

My Story

Pastor Jeff talked about “releasing the 500 pound gorilla” - which is having a difficult conversation that could get a little crazy.

On a scale of 1-10 how good are you at having difficult conversations? Explain your score.

Can you think of a time when you had to have a difficult conversation that you were dreading? What was the conversation? How did it turn out?

How does a person know when it is the right time to have a difficult conversation?

Digging Deeper

1. This weekend we heard about having difficult conversations. **Read 2 Samuel 12:1-7, 13-14.**

Why did this have the potential of being a 500-pound gorilla conversation?

What was so impressive about Nathan’s approach toward David?

What was the “win” of this conversation?

2. Read **Mark 10:17-27**

Why was this the right time for Jesus to have this conversation?

What was the very difficult topic Jesus was going to discuss? Why is it so difficult?

How can approaching another person with Christ’s love rather than out of anger or frustration make a difficult conversation easier to have?

Take it home

This whole lesson is about learning to have tough conversations. The most important conversations you need to have are about Jesus.

Explain how Jesus is your ally in having difficult conversations when you speak in truth and love.

Identify a person that you need to speak to in truth and love.

What is the issue that you need to discuss?

When are you going to bring it up?

How are you going to show the person that you love and care about them?

Prayer Requests