



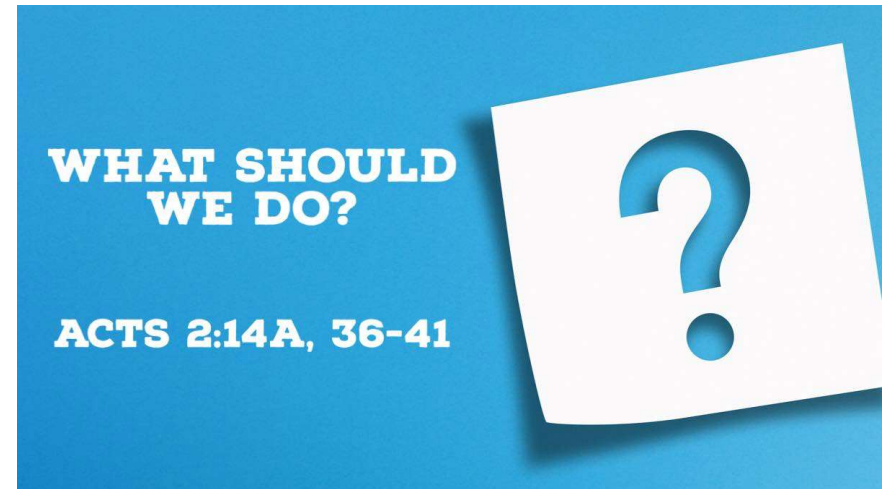
**Acts 2:14a, 36-41 New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup> And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

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**“To do so no more is the truest repentance.” –Martin Luther**

Have you ever been to a movie, concert, or perhaps concluded a book and thought to yourself, “Wow! What did I just experience?” I remember feeling this way at the conclusion of Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ*. I was a religion major at Mount Olive and had heard the story countless times in my 20+ years, but on that occasion I was speechless, numb, and broken. A mixture of silence and sobs filled the theater as people began to depart. No one was laughing, conversing, or applauding as with some films. It was the kind of experience in which I was grateful for having viewed, but, at the same time, wishing I had stayed away. It was challenging, comforting, and convicting all at once. I can only imagine if this was how Peter’s audience felt on the Day of Pentecost when the apostle preached such a powerful message concerning the one whom they had crucified. No laughter. A few sobs. Maybe even a head or two hung low. The Spirit of God has a way of touching human hearts doesn’t he? This touch can leave even the most callous of souls pondering, “What should I do?”.

- 1. Recognition precedes any possibility for change.**
- 2. Repentance indicates a commitment to being changed.**
- 3. Reorientation supplies proof for the beginning of change.**

**Prayer Pebble:** Lord, what I must do in response to your grace is not easy. It requires me to be fully honest with you and myself. From here, the possibility for change becomes possible. Amen.