"Preparing for the Harvest"
Acts 2:1-14

C.I.T.—The personal witness of the early church planted the seed of the gospel.
C.I.S.—Today we must use our personal witness to plant seeds for the gospel.
Introduction—Reap what you sow—can't reap what isn't sown

I. The Seed Prepared Vs. 1-4
   a. Setting
      i. Pentecost—50 days, first day after harvest is over—after Passover
      ii. Probably the 120 in the upper room
      iii. **Acts 1:4-8**—stay and wait
      iv. **Acts 1:14**—gathered in prayer meetings
   b. Baptized by the Holy Spirit
      i. Prophesied in **Matthew 3:11**
         1. Spirit and fire
         2. Violent rushing wind—tornadic
         3. Vision of the fiery tongues—possibly one main fire with tongues departing
      ii. **1 Cor. 12:13**--Paul's teaching on the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a one time event upon salvation.
      iii. One time event the indwelt the believer with the Holy Spirit.
   c. Filled with the Holy Spirit
      i. Examples of being filled
         1. Ministry--**Ex. 31:2-3, Micah 3:8**
         2. Prophecy--**Luke 1:15, 1:41, 1:67**
         3. Evangelism—**Acts 4:8, 31; 9:17-20; 13:9-10; 13:52**
      ii. Ephesians 5:18-19
         1. Present tense—ongoing filling
         2. As we engage in corporate worship and ministry, we are empowered to witness.
      iii. Spoke in different tongue/languages
         1. Different from their heart language
         2. Different from one another
   d. The Holy Spirit Empowers Our Witness.
   e. Illus.—Cup full of water
   f. Application
      i. We must empty our cups.
      ii. We must patch the holes.
      iii. Revivals used to last two weeks: the first week was to fill the church with Holy Spirit, and the second week was to put them to work.
      iv. This church was spending weeks in prayer and worship together before this baptism and filling.
      v. The seed is being prepared.

II. The Seed Sown Vs. 5-13
   a. Empowered witness got their attention.
      i. Jewish people and Gentiles who had converted to Judaism gathered in Jerusalem for the festival of Pentecost.

ii. They lived in other parts of the world, and thus spoke other languages.
iii. They came together and were confused.
iv. When they heard their own language, it piqued their interest.

b. Empowered witness got their amazement.
i. How they were hearing amazed them.
1. In their own language.
2. Lists of languages being heard.
ii. What they were hearing.
1. Declaring the magnificent acts of God.
2. They Christians were declaring the gospel message in a way that they could understand.

c. The Holy Spirit Expects Our Witness.

d. Illus.—Bald Eagle in a cage

e. Application
i. We are not empowered to be put in a display case.
ii. We are empowered to get to work.
iii. When we gather for worship and we get all lathered up with the Holy Spirit, we do so in order to get in the game and get to work.
iv. What good is a revival if it doesn't result in doing what God wants us to do?

III. The Seed Harvested vs 13-14

a. Negatively responded to the message.

b. Others responded positively.
i. Peter's sermon in vs. 14-36
ii. Response—Acts 2:36-41

c. The Holy Spirit used the witness to bring people to faith in Christ.

d. The Holy Spirit Exploits our Witness

e. Illus.—Testimonies—most influential was usually someone other than the preacher

f. Application
i. You can be the most influential person in someone's faith journey.
ii. It starts with your personal witness.
iii. The Lord will honor that and will use your witness to change lives.

Conclusion

- In this revival, it started with prayer, then personal witness, and then preaching.
  - We are currently in the personal witness stage.
  - This is where we sow the seeds that will be harvested during the revival.
  - The Lord cannot bless a seed that isn't sown.
  - If we don't have lost people in the room during revival, then we will not have people saved.
- **Psalm 126:5-6**