

Acts 2:14

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.

This was the beginning of the very first sermon after the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples. Afterwards, that day, 3,000 came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. So why do things like this not happen today? If you read the rest of Acts chapter 2, you will read of Peter quoting scripture left and right, as God's words poured from his mouth like rivers of living water.

† **John 7:38** *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*

It is the words of Jesus that saves. However, we tend to water down the word with all sorts of things. We have concerts, and movies, and plays, and slide shows, and PowerPoint presentations, movies, events, and anything else we can think of. We start putting more emphasis on all these other things, and start letting God's word take a back seat to it all.

"Yea, but how else am I supposed to get people to church without these things?"

I don't read anywhere in the bible where Jesus said, "Bring the lost to church" instead,

† **And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15**

Jesus or the disciples did not have any special music as they went around preaching the gospel. No big shows in the Roman Arena, no Internet, no TV, no movies, no plays, no musicians. No, all they did was preach the word of God.

There is a popular saying that goes like this, "Preach the gospel, and when necessary, use words." Which is actually not biblical at all, because once again, it's God's word that saves, not ours or our actions. Your Christian t-shirt, or bumper sticker, or fish on your car will not save others. Or even your smile, or the way you dress, or the car you drive, or your family, or your great PowerPoint presentation, or your church event will save anyone. Yes they are tools, but once again back in the early days of Christianity, most of these things didn't exist, and 3,000 came to the Lord in one day without them.

However, we think we need all of these other things in order for people to listen to the gospel. Maybe if we stopped trying all these different things and just preached the gospel, we would start seeing once again that, ***those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. Acts 2:41***

† **James 1:21 (NLT2)** *So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.*