

2:14 *Peter and the Eleven*

Once Fearful, Peter Is Now Bold.

Chrysostom: What is meant by “with the eleven”? They expressed themselves through a common voice, and he spoke for everyone. The eleven stood by as witnesses to what he said. “He raised his voice,” that is, he spoke with great confidence, that they might perceive the grace of the Spirit. He, who could not endure the questioning of a poor girl, now discourses with such great confidence in the middle of people all breathing murder upon him. This in itself became an indisputable proof of the resurrection. He spoke [among] people who could deride and make a joke of such sort of things! ... For wherever the Holy Spirit is present, people of clay are changed into people of gold. Look at Peter now, if you would, and scrutinize the timid one, the man without understanding (as Christ said, “Are you also still without understanding?”²). This is the man who was called Satan after that marvelous confession.³ Consider also the unanimity of the apostles. Of their own accord they yielded to him the office of speaking, for there was no need for them all to speak. So “he raised his voice and addressed them” with every confidence. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 4.⁴

2:15 *The Third Hour of the Day*

Significant Events at the Third Hour.

Cyril of Jerusalem: For he who, according to Mark, was crucified at the third hour, has now at the third hour sent his grace. For his grace is not one and the Spirit’s another, but he who was then crucified and had promised, fulfilled what he had promised. Catechetical Lecture 17.19.¹⁰

2:16 *Spoken by the Prophet Joel*

The Authority of the Prophets.

Chrysostom: He did not say that it was the Holy Spirit, nor did he mention the words of the prophet, but he brought in the prophecy by itself to fight its own battle. He also said nothing about Judas, although it was clear to everyone what sort of penalty he paid and the punishment he underwent. For nothing was more forceful than to argue with them from prophecy, which was even more forceful than facts. For when Christ performed miracles, they often contradicted him. But when Christ adduced the prophet, saying,

“The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand,” they were silent, and “no one was able to give him an answer.” ¹¹ Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 5.12

2:17–18 *The Lord’s Spirit Poured Out*

The Spirit on All Flesh.

Origen: I see, however, that the special coming of the Holy Spirit to people is declared to have happened after Christ’s ascension into heaven rather than before his coming into the world. Before that time the gift of the Holy Spirit was bestowed on prophets only and on a few others among the people who happened to have proved worthy of it. On First Principles 2.7.2.¹⁸

2:19 *Wonders in Heaven*

2:20 *The Great Day*

Do Not Sin with Impunity.

Chrysostom: At the same time, the apostle strikes fear into them by reminding them of the darkness that had lately occurred and leading them to expect things to come. “Before that great and glorious day of the Lord come.” He means: do not be confident because at present you sin with impunity.... Do you see how he shook and shattered their souls and turned laughter into a plea for acquittal? Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 5.22

2:21 *Calling on the Name of the Lord*

Each According to Deeds.

Chrysostom: “Everyone,” he says (not yet revealing the meaning), be he priest, slave, free. There is no male, no female in Christ Jesus, no slave, no free, for all these are but shadow. For if in the palaces of kings there is no highborn or lowborn, but each arrives through his deeds, and if in craftsmanship each is shown by his works, all the more so it should be in the pursuit of wisdom. Homilies on the Acts of the Apostles 5.25