

January 25, 2015
The Master's Touch

Acts 2: 14a – But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them,

Today's *Roots* is

shamelessly stolen from a sermon of one of my Seminary professors. Dr. David Schmitt is probably the foremost expert on homiletics (sermon giving) at the Saint Louis Seminary, if not the entire synod. He once preached in chapel on the verse above, Acts 2: 14a. This was his major focus, not the body of Peter's sermon that follows in Acts but simply this half of a verse mentioning that Peter lifts up his voice. Let us now learn from an excellent teacher and Christian.

At the beginning of the sermon, David invites you to picture him as a child watching some TV program on some TV station as a man stood before the cameras and made glasses filled to varying degrees with water sing. He would dip his finger in the water and touch the glasses and make them sing. David recalls that his young eyes couldn't comprehend what was happening, but his ears knew that this man was making beautiful music out of plain water and crystal drinking glasses.

On the farthest corner of the musician's table was a lonely glass that to our young man looked as if it were out of reach of the master's touch. And, to make it even more useless it appeared to be empty. But, at the end of the song the master glass player reached over the top of the other glasses to touch that far away, empty glass. When his wetted finger touched that glass it sung with the highest and most beautiful note

Roots

that the young David Schmitt had ever heard. At that moment the young boy sitting with his parents and his brother realized that it was

the master's touch that made the glass sing. It didn't matter if the glass was empty or full, it only mattered that the master musician chose to use the glass.

Enter Peter. Peter was an empty glass. Formerly, he had denied the Lord Jesus, but there in Acts he stood up to proclaim the crucified Christ to the masses. It didn't matter that he was always the disciple that needed to stick his foot in his mouth, God still made him sing a beautiful note. After his sermon here, the power of the Word of God worked through his proclamation to convert many to believe in the saving power of Christ.

So you see, the point I am making is this: No matter how empty we are or how empty we feel, God can touch us to make us sing the most beautiful note that anyone could ever hear. It is still not about the vessel or whether it is full, empty, cracked, tarnished or broken, it is the Master's touch that brings forth that magnificent note. Next time you don't feel that you have any more to give or that you can make a difference in someone's life, remember that it isn't you that comforts and converts, it is the Master choosing to and working his powerful word of Christ through you. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Carl J. H.

