

Small Group Guide

11/14/21: Acts 2:22-36 - "Jesus is Lord and Christ"

Sermon Outline:

Recap:

Pentecost

- devout Jews in Jerusalem
- hearing the apostles speak in their own language
- some were amazed and perplexed, some mocked
- they were wondering what was happening

Peter stands up and begins to explain what had happened. (Preaching). First act of the church

- persuading men to believe through the preaching
- may the church never neglect the rightful handling of God's Word
- goes to prophet Joel with stating "last days" (v. 17)
 - last days represented the Messianic Age
 - it was known as the time that the Messiah would come and set up His kingdom
- The coming of the Messiah would come in 2 periods:
 1. Suffering servant (Isaiah 53)
 2. In Glory (Isaiah 9:6)
- the first coming would usher in the kingdom (Acts 2:17-18)
 - 1 John 2:8, 1 Peter 1:20, Hebrews 1:2
- the second coming would establish the Kingdom forever (19-20)
 - we live in a foretaste of kingdom life now
 - present age - Christ reigns in our hearts
 - age to come - Christ will reign over all the Earth
- This is why Peter says that for now, "all who call upon the Lord can be saved"

***We are living in the last days now**

-live as if Jesus was going back tomorrow

- it's interesting that the apostles were already seeing the second coming of Christ at the coming of the Spirit
- Christ will return y'all
- What we experience now is just a foretaste of what it will be, but there will be a day when the invitation is up.

With this introduction, Peter draws them in, and what we will see is the blueprint of apostolic preaching found in the book of Acts.. and How we are to preach the gospel..

He gives them 4 proofs that Jesus is the Messiah:

- 1. His Life**
- 2. His Death**
- 3. His Resurrection**
- 4. His Exaltation**

1. Messiah Proof 1: His Life (22)

In verse 22, Peter states 2 undeniable truths:

1. God's attesting of Jesus
2. Their witnessing of Jesus

** Jesus of Nazareth, a man
-inscription on the cross

**attested by God
-attested- exhibiting something, idea of proof, proclamation of high office

John 8:18- I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.

Peter says God Himself gave proof; proclamation to who Jesus was; He showed you.

***3 means by which God attested Jesus:**

- 1. Mighty works**
- 2. Wonders**
- 3. Signs**

These were overwhelming evidence that Jesus was the Messiah

It's what Nicodemus came to Him and said in John 3:2, "This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

*Miracles- God's supernatural work

*Wonders- marveling at what one had just witnessed

*Signs- the intent of God's work— point to a spiritual truth

This is what we will see in the book of Acts — signs and wonders

*You always see the sign and the wonder together.

- Marvel has no value disconnected from their intent to point to God's divine power.

*Purpose of the signs was to point to something greater; and greater spiritual truth

-ministry of Jesus

-John 6 - miracle of bread to say "I am the bread of life"

- resurrection of Lazarus to say "I am the resurrection and the life"

Jesus was always sure to make sure that He was not acting on His own, but The Father working through Him. Peter is saying, God attested Christ's deity and the Father's approval by the works of Christ.

*Then Peter says... **in your midst, as you know**

-they couldn't claim ignorance

-rejection wasn't based on lack of information but on hatred and love for sin

-John 10:37-39

-never denied his works but always responded in hatred ("before their eyes")

-John 15:24-25

***His life and works were undeniable that He was the Messiah but...John 3:19**

***But before we judge them...**

- **You've heard this message of good news.**

- **It's not a lack of information, but because we don't want to submit.**

2. Messiah Proof 2: His Death (23)

This Jesus—This man— “This One”

-contrast of the one God honored as Messiah and they rejected and crucified

“If Jesus was the Messiah, why is he a victim?”

“Why not use His power to escape?”

Peter answers these assumed questions by stating Jesus was no victim; He was delivered according to the predetermined plan of God.

*“Delivered up” — only here in the NT, = surrendered to their enemies

-in sending His Son, God delivered His Son to His enemies

-by the design of God, Jesus was betrayed by Judas to the Jewish leaders

-Jewish leaders hand him over to the Romans to be executed

-DON'T GET IT TWISTED

*This was **NO** accident or coincidence, but definite and predetermined

- “Definite” - predetermined— from horizo, “to mark out with boundary”

- “Plan” - will, design, purpose

***** Jesus was delivered to death because God had planned it and ordained it for all eternity.*** (Acts 4:27-28, Acts 13:27-29, 2 Timothy 1:9, Revelation 13:8)**

*Foreknowledge - “prognosis”

-more than knowing beforehand

-it's not that God saw this happening and then chose the plan

-it was foreordained and planned it for all eternity..

-out of His foreordaining knowledge he predestined and predetermined this to happen this way

***While attributing this to the sovereignty of God, Peter didn't remove their guilt.

And here in this verse we have the great paradox of the Bible: God's total sovereignty and the responsibility of man (**Luke 22:22**)

*Peter said hey, it was God's plan, but you're still responsible for your sin and rejection of this Messiah...

*The OT taught that the Messiah would die... but they missed that part

*We aren't responsible for the purposes of God, but we are our sin.. we still are held accountable for them.... And that's what Peter says here..

**The blackest moment in the history of Israel was a part of God's plan..

This is the lens in which we look at life... through the cross...

-What men meant for evil, God wastes nothing!

*****His death confirmed that He was the Messiah... the Father delivered Him... and the OT foretold of His sufferings**

3. Messiah Proof 3: His Resurrection (24-32)

- Peter spent 1 verse on His life, 1 verse on His death, BUT 9 verses on His resurrection
- Resurrection is the central theme of apostolic teaching, climax of redemptive history
- His resurrection proves his deity and messiahship
- Resurrection grants our resurrection
- Either his death was a heroic death of a martyr, pathetic death of a mad man, or the execution of a fraud, OR the death of the True messiah..
- His resurrection proves He is the Messiah!

- God raised him up....
 - God delivered Him up... and God raised Him up...

- loosing the pangs of death
 - birth pangs
 - first fruit— came forth from the womb of the Earth

- Death couldn't hold him
 - power- resurrection and life
 - promise- thus it is written, he will be raised again
 - purpose- God intends to be with His people forever... they need to go through death and out the other side.... Jesus went first to make a way
 - BECAUSE HE LIVES, WE LIVE

Peter quotes Psalm 16:8-11

- see if you can see the life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension of Jesus
- v. 25- Lord at right hand = protection
- v. 26- Joy (mind jumps to Hebrews 12:2)
 - flesh- body surrendered to the Father's will
- v. 27- in the grave- no corruption
- v. 28- path to life (resurrection)
- v. 28b- ascension into the presence of His Father
- 29-32- this wasn't about David, but his descendent

4. Messiah Proof 3: His exaltation (33-36)

Peter brings them full circle..
-what is going on that you heard?

This Jesus who died, was buried, and raised... He's now at the right hand of the Father and He is pouring out the Spirit upon us.

Peter Quotes Psalm 110

v. 36- Main Point....

*Know this with certainty... God has declared Jesus both Lord and Messiah.....

*He's declared it in His life, death, resurrection, and exaltation...

*Let everyone know that for certainty

Small Group Questions:

1. What spoke to you in the Bible passage and the sermon?
2. What does it mean that we are living in the last days?
3. How does Jesus' life prove that He is the Messiah? How did the Father attest that He is?
4. How does it help your faith to know that Jesus wasn't a victim to evil but that God's plan went according to plan?
5. How does it make you feel that for God to save you, He delivered His Son to His enemies?
6. Why is the resurrection of Jesus so important?
7. Are you living as if Jesus is alive today? How can we live in the reality of the resurrection?
8. What are the implications for us that God has exalted Jesus to His right hand?