

SERMON DATE: July 18, 2021

SERMON SERIES: Can I Get a Witness?

SERMON TITLE: Soul-Saving Preaching

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE

Acts 2:22-24

“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— 23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; 24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”

Sermon Summary

If one man preached one sermon and three thousand people passed from death into life, that sermon and that man deserve our attention. Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ went from being a sniveling coward who denied that he even knew Jesus to a man to a man, empowered by the Spirit to call three thousand people from darkness to light.

Introduction

The primary means by which God has chosen to communicate His soul-saving message of forgiveness of sin, redemption, grace and love is through the mechanism of preaching. It is the program foretold through the prophet Isaiah hundreds of years in advance, and affirmed by Jesus Himself in the synagogue of His home village of Nazareth. The Hebrew word Isaiah used when he prophesied that is transliterated into preach means to announce glad news, to carry bring a message, or to tell good. By extension is how we came to call the message of Christ today the “gospel”. The word gospel is derived from the Anglo-

SERMON NOTES

Saxon term god-spell, meaning “good story,” and is a rendering of the Latin word *evangelium* and the Greek word *euangelion*, meaning “good news” or “good telling”.

PETER – From Cowardly Character to Powerful Messenger

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.”

- Rebuked by God on Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9:5-7)
- Doubts on the water (Matt. 14:29-31)
- Cutting off High Priest servant’s ear (John 18:10-11)
- Denial of Jesus (Matt. 26:69-78)
- Jesus Restores & Affirms (Mark 16:7, John 21:15-17)
- Preaches on Pentecost – 3000 are saved

A Little Peter in All of Us

- Misspeak at times, act before we think, doubt God, get angry and reaction with aggression, want to fit in, shrink down when it comes to identifying with Christ, experience faith-crisis, we too through the power of Holy Spirit can accomplish great things for God’s kingdom.

POINT #1 – The Holy Spirit Is Preaching’s Power Source

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 24:49

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

NOTE #1: Preaching Belongs to the Sent (Chosen of God)**Hebrews 10:14-15**

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

POINT #2 – Centrality of the Cross to the Message**Act 2:22-23**

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know 23. Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

Luke 24:46

Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

NOTE #2: The Cross Informs the Good News

Acquaintance with bad news points to good news!

HYMNS:***At the Cross***

Alas, and did my Savior bleed and did my sovereign die
Would He devote that sacred head for such a worm as I
Was it for crimes that I have done, He crawled up on the tree
Amazing pity, grace unknown and love beyond degree

At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the Light
And the burden of my heart rolled away, rolled away
It was there by Faith, I received my sight
And now, and now, and now I am happy all the day
All the day.

Down At the Cross

Down at the cross, Where my savior died
Down where for cleansing, From sin I cried
There to my heart, Was the blood applied
Glory to His name

I am so wondrously, Saved from my sin
Jesus so sweetly, Abides within
There at the cross, Where He took me in

Glory to His name, Singin' glory to His name
Glory to His name, There to my heart was the blood applied
Glory to His name

NOTE #3: The Message Can't Lose the Cross**Fleming Rutledge - *Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ***

Emphasizes the centrality of the cross and makes the case that the cross makes most uncomfortable and does not align easily with the expectations of religion to generate emotions of feeling good and comfort.

The Cross represents Judgment, Justice and Mercy - At the cross, we are judged and justified.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: 2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth and be turned aside to fables.

POINT #3 – THE MESSAGE IS SOUL-SAVING, SO PREACHING SHOULD BE SOUL-SAVING

Acts 2:24

whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

Mark 16:14-16

Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."

Ephesians 2:4-8

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.