

"Peter's Sermon"

Part 1

Acts 2

Introduction: Tonight in our study of Acts we have come to Peter's sermon that he preached on the Day of Pentecost. Before we get into the sermon there is something here that needs to be seen and pointed out. This sermon is recorded for our benefit. It shows that this is the method by which God grows the church.

I. The Preacher

Notice Acts 2:41

Through this sermon there were about three thousand people who were saved. Let us consider that the sermon is delivered by a simple fisherman. He was a man that had failed miserably the night Jesus was arrested. He was a man that spoke many times long before he thought about what he was saying. This is the kind of man whom God used to preach the very first sermon in the church age and to bring around three thousand people to salvation.

Let me refresh your mind about what Peter went through.

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹ Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

⁷⁰ But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

⁷¹ And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

⁷² And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

⁷³ And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.

⁷⁴ Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

A man does not get much lower than where Peter was after this very night. But God restored Peter, He equipped him for the ministry, and He used him in a very powerful way.

Application:

Have you failed the Lord in a terrible way? Has the enemy convinced you that God cannot any longer use you? I want you to know that He CAN use you and He will use you if you are willing to surrender to Him. You do not need to be highly educated; you do not need to be prominent in society. God uses ordinary men and women who are available. He uses fishermen, farmers, doctors, lawyers, teachers, and all others who are willing to be used in His service.

II. The Means

It is very important to take notice the example for all local churches here. Peter did not bring in contemporary music, he did not divide up into small groups, and he did not look for a modern-day version of the Bible that pleased the multitudes. He preached the Word of God, and three thousand people came to the Lord. One Spirit filled man armed with the Word of God turned Jerusalem upside down.

This is something that many churches have set aside today. They have so many different things going on in the services that they only have fifteen or twenty minutes for the Bible. If you get a concordance and you look up the word "preach, preached, or preaching" you will find that word used about thirty-six times in Acts. Let us notice just a few references.

Acts 5:42

⁴² *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

Acts 10:40-42

⁴⁰ *Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;*

⁴¹ *Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.*

⁴² *And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.*

Preaching the Word of God is the way in which the church is to grow. The church will not grow through entertainment or anything else apart from the Word of God. Preaching the

Word of God **MUST** be given top priority in the church. This is never to be up for debate among the congregation because it is the plan which God gave to the church.

2 Timothy 4:1-3

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

² *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season;* *reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.*

³ *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

III. The Setting

Notice Acts 2:11-13

When the believers were filled with the Spirit and when they began to speak in other languages of the wonderful works of God, some of those who heard were amazed and others mocked and accused the disciples of being drunk with new wine. It is this confusion that the Spirit of God will use to set the stage for Peter's sermon. There are two points here that we need to see.

1. Peter used the current situation to present the Gospel.

There was much confusion among those who witnessed the supernatural events and so Peter would use this situation as an opening for his message.

Application:

Today we are in a world that is very confused. For the most part the people of the world and even many Christians do not have a Biblical worldview. The unsaved world has many questions because of all the changes in our world. What is happening today has been permitted by God for multiple reasons and one of the reasons is so that we can point people to the Savior. Things are so unsure today and people long for stability and security. This then opens the door for us to tell them of the blessing that come with a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

³⁰ *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

This is what people are looking for today. Rest for their souls. So for us, God has set the stage to share the message of Jesus Christ.

Let us learn to see the current situations that we are often faced with as opportunities to share the Gospel. Let us notice how Jesus used His surroundings to witness.

John 4:5-10

⁵ *Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.*

⁶ *Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.*

⁷ *There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.*

⁸ *(For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)*

⁹ *Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.*

¹⁰ *Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

2. There will always be critics and scoffers in the crowd.

Notice Acts 2:11-13

Those who spoke in tongues spoke of the wonderful works of God and there were those who did not want to hear that, so they mocked them. These mockers did not discourage Peter. He went on and even replied to their mocking.

Application:

Let us understand that there are going to be scoffers, but we cannot allow them to keep us from sharing the Gospel.

2 Peter 3:3-8

³ Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

⁴ And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

⁵ For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

⁶ Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

⁷ But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

⁸ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

There will always be people who are going to deny the Bible. They will not want to hear what the Bible says because it does not fall in line with how they want their lives to go. When the Bible speaks about the coming judgment in the Tribulation there are many who scoff at that prophecy and the reason is because they love this world and they do not want to hear that someday this nation will dissolve into a global empire. It does not align with how they want the future to unfold. Therefore, they scoff and deny the Word. Again I say we cannot allow these people to discourage us from sharing the Gospel. There are others in the crowd who will listen and will come to Jesus Christ for salvation.

IV. The Content

Notice Acts 2:14

We need to notice here that Peter spoke with authority. He commanded his listeners to hearken unto his words.

Application:

This is the very way in which the Word of God is to be delivered. We must not be timid, nor should we ever apologize for what the Bible says. The message needs to be delivered with authority because it is the Word of God, and it will change lives.

Romans 1:14-16

¹⁴ I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

¹⁵ *So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.*

¹⁶ For **I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ:** for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Hebrews 4:12

¹² *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

We must be as the Psalmist:

Psalm 71:15-16

¹⁵ *My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof.*

¹⁶ *I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.*

Conclusion:

Next week we will get into the content of Peter's sermon. Just remember God can use any of us to reach the lost with the Gospel all we need to be is surrendered.

1 Corinthians 1:26-28

²⁶ *For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*

²⁷ *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*

²⁸ *And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:*