

"Peter's Sermon"

Part 4

Acts 2

Introduction: Tonight as we return to Acts 2 I we are going to move through Peter's sermon to get an understanding of what we need to share with unsaved people so that the Holy Spirit can use our words to bring conviction and eventually bring them to salvation.

Peter began by replying to the mockers who heard the gift of tongues being exercised.

Notice Acts 2:15-20

Peter compared what was happening with Joel's prophesy. Just as Joel spoke of a day when the Spirit would be poured out, so this was a day when God had given His Spirit to the Apostles. In Acts 2 however the giving of the Spirit was different because God wanted all who were there to understand that what was happening was something that had never happened before. This was a supernatural event and He was sending a message to the unbelieving Jews. It was the beginning of the church/the body of Jesus Christ.

Notice Acts 2:21

This verse is also a quote from Joel and Peter uses it here for evangelistic purposes. Now this would be where many preachers would stop today. They would give an invitation to call upon the name of the Lord but to stop here is leaving out something that is essential in sharing the Gospel. Those in the crowd could respond to this by asking, "Why do I need to call upon the Lord?" Or it may be worded, "Why do I need a Savior?" "I am a good person, at least I am better than most people I know!"

Those whom Peter was speaking to needed to know they were guilty of sin.

I. The Focus

A. The Death of Jesus Christ

Notice Acts 2:22-23

We briefly looked at these two verses last week. Here Peter reminds them of the supernatural works of Jesus, and he then explains that God had predetermined before the foundation of the world that Jesus would come into this world and die on the cross. God was the One who sent Him to the cross. But they were guilty because they had rejected Him, and they had crucified Him. He died at their wicked hands. This is such an important part of Peter's message. Again I remind you that they had to see their sin and guilt before they could ever see their need of a Savior.

Matthew 19:16-22

¹⁶ *And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?*

¹⁷ *And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

¹⁸ *He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,*

¹⁹ *Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*

²⁰ *The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?*

²¹ *Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.*

²² *But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.*

Jesus used the Law when speaking with this man because the Law was given to show the sinfulness of man.

Romans 3:19-20

¹⁹ *Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.*

²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: **for by the law is the knowledge of sin.***

Galatians 3:24-25

²⁴ *Wherefore **the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ,** that we might be justified by faith.*

²⁵ *But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

The Law shows man how sinful he is which in turn is to lead him to the Savior. We would do well to use the Law when speaking with the unsaved.

Romans 2:14-15

¹⁴ For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

¹⁵ Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

B. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Notice Acts 2:24

We were all guilty of crucifying Jesus because it was for our sins that He died.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

But the grave could not hold Jesus Christ. God raised Him from the dead on the third day. It was not possible that the grave could hold Jesus Christ. Someone has said that the TOMB became a WOMB for our Lord.

Notice Acts 2:24 again.

We need to notice that Peter speaks of the PAINS OF DEATH here. This has the idea of birthing pains. But there is something else to consider here for a moment. For those who die in their sins they must understand that there is pain after they die to which they are shackled. The verse tells us that Jesus was LOOSED FROM THE PAINS OF DEATH. What are the pains of death?

Luke 16:19-28

¹⁹ There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

²⁰ And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

²¹ And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

²³ And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

²⁴ And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

²⁶ And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

In this passage we can see several of the PAINS OF DEATH which the unsaved will be shackled with for all eternity:

1. The pain caused by the fires of judgment.

"I am tormented in this flame."

The fires of hell are literal fires that will cause the soul to feel pain. Remember that this rich man's body was buried so his soul is suffering in this flame. In the Lake of Fire the body will feel the pain also.

Revelation 20:10-15

¹⁰ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

¹¹ *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*

¹² *And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

¹³ *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

¹⁴ *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

¹⁵ *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Getting back to Luke we can see another PAIN OF DEATH.

2. Pain caused by remembering.

"Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented."

This man could remember back to all he had in life. For the people who die in their sins they will remember the past life and they will remember the opportunities that God brought before them to be saved. Remembering the words of the pastor or the words of a good friend who pleaded with you to repent and to turn to Jesus Christ. To remember the tears in their eyes as they presented to you the Gospel. They loved you deeply and you rejected their words and God's offer. Oh the pain of the memories! The pain of remembering will torment them for all eternity.

3. Pain caused by the finality of hell.

"And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."

Oh how awful to be shackled for all eternity to the pain of realizing there is no escape. To realize that what you are feeling you will feel for all eternity. To understand that there will be no more chances. It is finished in the sense that the door has been closed just as it was in Noah's day in the ark and then the rains began. No way to escape! This is FINAL! It is impossible to change!

4. The pain caused by concern for those you loved on earth.

²⁷ Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

²⁸ For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

When this man remembered back to his life on earth his heart was deeply concerned for his brothers. His heart was pained with the thought of his family ending up in hell. Can you imagine a father or a mother who dies in their sins and as they suffering in hell there is the pain caused by great concern for their children who are still living on earth? Then there is the pain of not being able to go back and tell them about the way of escape through Jesus Christ.

5. The pain caused by separation.

"there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us..."

Another PAIN OF DEATH that the unsaved will be shackled to for all eternity will be the pain of separation. Separated from friends and loved ones FOREVER. Separated from your children forever.

For us who are saved we know that when we die or our loved ones in Christ die that our separation is only temporary. We will see them again and we will celebrate our Lord with them forever.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

¹⁷ Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Conclusion:

Be sure that you are saved!! The stuff of this world means nothing when compared with eternity.

Next week we will look at why it was NOT possible that our Lord would stay in the grave.