

**"Peter's Sermon"**

**Part 5**

**Acts 2**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Acts we stopped in Acts 2:24 but we did not get to the last statement of the verse.

**Notice Acts 2:24**

Peter tells his audience that it was not possible that Jesus would be help by the grave. He was appointed to die, and He was appointed to rise from the dead. In the text before us we find several proofs of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**1. David's Prophecy**

**Notice Acts 2:25-31**

Here in these verses Peter points back to Psalm 16. Psalm 16 is a very interesting Psalm. It is penned by David, but it is from the heart of Jesus. I want us to take sometime and look at some of the details of this Psalm because it is far to valuable to skip quickly over it.

**Psalm 16:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> *I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.*

<sup>9</sup> *Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.*

<sup>10</sup> *For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.*

<sup>11</sup> *Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy: at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

These are the Words of Jesus through David's writing. What I want you to see is that Jesus needed to keep His eyes on the Father as He faced the sufferings of His earthly life. I want to show you something that took place the night which Jesus was arrested.

**Matthew 26:37-39**

<sup>37</sup> And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

<sup>38</sup> Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

<sup>39</sup> And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

The words "sorrowful" and "very heavy" are very strong words in the Greek. The words "very heavy" and "exceeding sorrowful" are the strongest words in the Bible used to describe sorrow and depression. This night in the garden as Jesus faced the cross the sorrow swept over Him like a crushing wave. The humanity of our Lord was terrified of the death that He was about to die.

Notice the words of Poole:

*"The words in the Greek are expressive of the greatest sorrow imaginable."*

To get Him through this He kept the Lord always before Him.

<sup>8</sup> I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope.

If Jesus needed to keep His eyes on the Father how much more do, we need to do the same? We face trials and storms but nothing like our Lord faced. But we certainly need our God in the midst of the storms. Let us notice how the saints of the Old Testament faced the storms.

### Hebrews 11:13-16

<sup>13</sup> These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

<sup>14</sup> For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

<sup>15</sup> And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

*<sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*

Let me take you back to David's words again.

**Notice Acts 2:26**

Our Lord and David had hope because of God's promise.

**Notice Acts 2:27-28**

The promise here is that Jesus' soul would not stay separated from His body. In other words the promise was that He would live again, and His body would not be permitted to decay. Let me raise a question here, "What if Jesus did not rise from the dead?" One answer is right here! Then God's and His Word could not be trusted, and He would be a liar. God had foretold through the pen of David that Jesus Christ would rise from the dead.

**Application:**

Let us understand that our hope is to be in our Lord and His faithfulness. Our hope is not found in circumstances. Let us be reminded of what we looked at Sunday evening.

**1 Peter 4:19**

*<sup>19</sup> Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.*

**Notice Acts 2:28 again.**

Jesus knew that there would be joy after His death. He knew the grave could not hold Him.

**Application:**

I am reminded here of the joy that awaits the believer. We will die and we will be buried but the grave will not hold us.

**1 John 3:1-3**

*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

<sup>2</sup> *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

<sup>3</sup> *And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

David's prophecy is proof that Jesus Christ is alive.

## 2. The Presence of David's Tomb

The question among Peter's listeners would have been, "How do you know that David was not writing about himself?"

### Notice Acts 2:29-31

These people were very much aware of David's tomb and that his body was still there. His soul had been in Hades after he died until Jesus led the Old Testament saints to heaven.

### Ephesians 4:7-10

<sup>7</sup> *But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.*

<sup>8</sup> *Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.*

<sup>9</sup> *(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?*

<sup>10</sup> *He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)*

David could not have been talking about himself because his soul would remain in Hades until his sin debt was paid by Jesus. For all those hundreds of years his body would surely have returned to dust.

Therefore, the presence of David's tomb was proof of the resurrection of Jesus Christ based upon David's prophecy.

## 3. The Witness of the Apostles

### Notice Acts 2:32

We read of Jesus' appearance to the Apostles in 1 Corinthians.

### 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, 12

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

<sup>4</sup> And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

<sup>5</sup> And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

<sup>6</sup> After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

<sup>7</sup> After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

<sup>8</sup> And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

<sup>12</sup> Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

#### 4. The Events of Pentecost

##### Notice Acts 2:33

The events of Pentecost were the fulfillment of Jesus Words to His disciples.

##### Luke 24:46-49

<sup>46</sup> And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

<sup>47</sup> And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

<sup>48</sup> And ye are witnesses of these things.

<sup>49</sup> And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

#### 5. The Exaltation of the Lord

##### Notice Acts 2:34-35

This is a quote from Psalm 110:1. Jesus Christ is the Lord.

##### Notice Acts 2:36

Peter does not soften his words in any way. He tells his listeners that the very Jesus whom they crucified was declared by the Father to be God the Messiah. He was the promised Messiah and they had crucified Him.

It is very important here to see that Peter used the Old Testament prophecies which spoke of Jesus to show just who He was. Peter's listeners needed to understand who Jesus was before they could be saved.

**Matthew 16:13-17**

<sup>13</sup> *When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*

<sup>14</sup> *And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.*

<sup>15</sup> *He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

<sup>16</sup> *And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

<sup>17</sup> *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

**John 8:24**

<sup>24</sup> *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*

**Conclusion:**

We can only imagine the convictions in the hearts of the Jews when they realized who Jesus was and that they had crucified the Messiah.

**Notice Acts 2:37**

This is what happens when the Holy Spirit is at work.