

"Peter's Second Sermon"

Acts 3

Introduction: Last week in our study of Acts we looked at Acts 3:19-21 and we considered this was **NOT** a reoffer of the Kingdom to the Jews as some teach.

I. The Grace

Notice Acts 3:19-21

It is instead a statement by Peter describing what needs to take place before Jesus will ever return to set up the Kingdom. The Jews must repent and receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah. The offers of the Kingdom ceased in Matthew 12 when the Jews associated the miracles of Jesus with Satan. From that time forth there are no more offers of the Kingdom. The Kingdom would be postponed until a time when the nation would repent and accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah. This will not happen until the end of the tribulation when Jesus returns in all of His glory. Jesus made a very similar statement to the nation.

Matthew 23:37-39

³⁷ O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

³⁸ Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

³⁹ For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

If Peter's words were a reoffer of the Kingdom and the nation accepted it then the Words of our Lord in Matthew 24-25 were all of no meaning. Peter's words were not the reoffer of the Kingdom, but they were an offer of salvation. They had rejected the pre-resurrected Jesus and now they were given another opportunity to accept the post-resurrection Jesus. They now had the sign of the resurrection as seen in Jonah fulfilled. But even with all the signs and miracles many still rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

Application:

All of this shows the longsuffering of our Lord. These people had crucified their Messiah and now they were given another opportunity to repent. Their repentance would not bring about the Kingdom, but it would bring about their salvation. All of this reminds me of God's longsuffering and grace in our day today. I have listened to the liberals lately complaining

about the SCOTUS possibly overturning Roe vs Wade. They are screaming that it is an attack against women's rights. They are blind to the fact that abortion is murder, and that each abortion stops a beating heart. In all of this I cannot but think of what God desires. Every baby is made in the image of God and if I were God, I would just cut off everyone who pushed for the right to kill babies. I would have little or no patience with them. But in all of this God lets them live and He also longs to see them saved. He allows many of them to live long lives with opportunities to repent. But they continue to mock God and to advocate for women to have the right to kill babies. There will come a day when the grace ends, and the longsuffering will end. The moment they die I believe they will understand how wrong they were.

This brings us to where we are tonight.

II. The Warning

As I read a few of these verses we will see that Peter sets forth for his audience either a blessing or a curse.

a. A Blessing

Notice Acts 3:19-21

The blessing here would be forgiveness.

b. The Curse

Notice Acts 3:22-23

Here in verse 22 Peter points back to Moses who was held in very high esteem among the Jews. Peter takes their minds back to Deuteronomy. Before we look at the text, I want to show you what happened at Sinai where the Law was given.

Israel had heard God speak at Sinai and they were terrified. They requested that God not speak to them anymore but instead speak through Moses.

Deuteronomy 5:23-27

²³ And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders;

²⁴ And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth.

25 Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die.

26 For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?

27 Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it.

Now let us notice Moses' words which Peter is quoting.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

The religious leaders of Peter's day were still looking for THAT Prophet who Moses was speaking of who was Jesus Christ.

John 1:19-21

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

Getting back to our text, Peter was telling them that the search for THAT PROPHET was over. He had come and His name was Jesus. Those who would accept Him would be blessed and those who chose to reject Him would perish.

Application:

When we started to look at this sermon, we looked at how Peter was straight forward to show these people that they were guilty. Here in Acts 3:23 Peter is again very straight forward. He tells them straight up, if you accept Him, you will have forgiveness but if you reject Him you will perish. Peter's statement was black and white. There was no gray area.

I point this out because this is what people need to hear today. There are many who talk of the love of God but there are few who will come right out and tell people, "If you reject Jesus you are going to hell!" So today much Truth is left out and it opens the door for gray areas. It is in these gray areas that man in his sinfulness creates his own god who will accept everyone regardless of their faith.

III. Their Accountability

Notice Acts 3:24

The Jews whom Peter was speaking to had a tremendous amount of spiritual light. Here we see that they had the Words of all the prophets. Many of them knew by memory the prophecies concerning Jesus Christ.

Matthew 2:3-6

³ *When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*

⁴ *And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.*

⁵ *And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,*

⁶ *And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.*

The religious leaders were quoting from Micah.

Micah 5:2

² But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

The people of Peter's day had all the information they needed concerning Jesus Christ, but they had no faith.

Notice Acts 3:25

They were the children of the prophets, and they were promised blessings under the covenant which God had made with Abraham. These blessings would come through the Seed of Abraham and that would be through Jesus.

Galatians 3:14-16

¹⁴ That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

¹⁵ Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

¹⁶ Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

If anyone should accept Jesus Christ it should have been these people for, they had Jesus in their midst.

Notice Acts 3:26

Not only were they given the opportunity to embrace their Messiah, but the opportunity was given to them first.

Romans 1:16

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.

Even though they had rejected and condemned Jesus Christ to death, God still brought the Gospel to them first. Why did Peter bring to their mind in 24-26 all the light which they had been given?

Peter knew, from the teaching of Jesus that they were accountable for the light given to them.

Luke 12:41-48

⁴¹ Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

⁴² And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

⁴³ Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

⁴⁴ Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

⁴⁵ But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

⁴⁶ The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

⁴⁷ And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

⁴⁸ But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

If the Jews of Peter's day were to die in their sins, they would receive a greater degree of suffering in the Lake of Fire.

Conclusion/application:

This is also true of people who sit in church every week and listen to the Truth of God's Word but continue to reject Jesus Christ. If these people die in their sins their suffering will be far greater than someone who never darkened the door of a church. The unsaved who read their Bibles, attend church, possibly even teach a class, and hold a position in the church have no idea of the danger they are facing. If a person is never going to get saved, they are better off to never attend a church where the Truth is preached.