

The Jesus That Peter Preached

Introduction. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Peter paints a picture of Jesus in Acts 2. This picture is necessary for two reasons. The first reason is that Jesus was the basis of New Testament preaching (1 Corinthians 2:2; 15:1-4) — it was “the gospel of Jesus Christ” (Mark 1:1). The second reason is that no one will obey Jesus unless they know about Him (John 17:3; Philippians 3:8-10).

On the occasion of the first Pentecost after the resurrection and ascension of Christ (Acts 1:3-10), Peter addressed Jews from every nation under Heaven (Acts 2:5). They were honest and sincere men (Acts 2:37), but they were sincerely wrong and honestly mistaken (Acts 2:23).

In this sermon, Peter testified of Jesus of Nazareth in five different ways with the hope of turning these men’s hearts back to God.

I. Jesus Was Human (vv. 22, 30)

- A. No doctrine more clearly taught in the Bible than the humanity of Jesus.
 - 1. In the Old Testament (Isaiah 7:14-16; 11:1; Micah 5:2; cp. Acts 2:30).
 - 2. In the New Testament (Luke 4:2; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 4:15).
- B. The aim of His humanity:
 - 1. To establish His equality with us (Job 9:33; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 2:17).
 - 2. To make it possible for Him to be tempted (Hebrews 2:18; 5:8-9).
 - 3. To do the Father’s will in dying for sin (Hebrews 2:9-10; 9:22).

II. Jesus Was Crucified (v. 23)

- A. The death of Christ was not an accident.
 - 1. Foreordained before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4; Hebrews 4:3; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 13:8).
 - 2. Jesus’ act was a free will offering (Philippians 2:5-10; Hebrews 5:8-9).
 - 3. Jesus knew He was to die and did not seek to avoid death (Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:18-19, 28; 26:2, 12, 28, 31, 46, 53).
 - 4. Jesus preached that His death was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophets (Matthew 26:55-56; Luke 24:44-47; cp. Isaiah 53:1-12).
- B. It was the will of the Father that Jesus’ death be for the sins of the whole world (Hebrews 10:5-14).
 - 1. God would not be satisfied with animal sacrifices (Hebrews 10:5-8).
 - 2. Only the death of the Son of Man would satisfy God (Hebrews 10:9-10).
 - 3. Jesus offered that sacrifice which sanctifies us forever (Hebrews 10:10-14).

III. Jesus Was Resurrected (vv. 24, 32)

- A. The Bible says in many places that God raised Jesus from the dead (Acts 3:15; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30, 37; 17:30-31; Romans 4:24; 6:4; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:15; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:20-21).
- B. Does this deny the unity of the godhead?
 - 1. No more than creation (Genesis 1:1; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17).
 - 2. No more than miracles (Matthew 12:28; Luke 11:20).
 - 3. No more than inspiration (John 15:26).

IV. *Jesus Was Glorified (v. 33)*

- A. What was raised from the garden tomb?
 1. The body that was born (Luke 24:36-40; John 20:24-29).
 2. The same body was resurrected (1 Corinthians 15:21-23, 35-54).
 3. This is the basis of our hope (1 Corinthians 15:20; Romans 8:17, 29).
- B. The importance of this truth:
 1. We will be like Him (1 John 3:2).
 2. We will live holy lives (1 John 3:3).
 3. We will seek God's grace (Hebrews 4:14-16).

V. *Jesus Was Divine (vv. 34-35)*

- A. Peter quotes Psalm 110:1 and Psalm 16:8-11 as proof of the deity of Christ.
 1. Jesus made this argument to the Pharisees (Matthew 22:41-46).
 2. Paul makes this argument in Hebrews 1:1-13.
 3. Peter's use of "Holy One" in Acts 2:27 is language applicable only to Him who is divine.
- B. An affirmation of the humanity of Christ is not a denial of His deity.
 1. During baptism we confess both (Acts 8:37).
 2. To not confess His humanity is to be antichrist (1 John 4:3).
 3. To confess His deity is to dwell in God (1 John 4:15).
 4. To confess His deity is to have eternal life (1 John 5:10-12, 20).

Conclusion. This simple lesson gave the Jews at Pentecost enough information to be convicted that Jesus was the Messiah, and then obey Him. Have you believed in this Jesus that Peter preached?