

6. Peter Preached the Resurrection of Christ

In our last topic, we saw that Peter showed as He began his sermon on the Day of Pentecost, that the Holy Spirit had been promised. He used the passage that will be fully fulfilled in the future as an illustration of what was happening on the Day of Pentecost. Then he pointed out the fact that God had planned to send Christ to pay for sin. At the same time, evil men were responsible for carrying out that action because of their rebellion. Then, Peter began to show that the Old Testament promised the resurrection of Christ. We will see that Peter continued to preach the resurrection in our topic today.

In Acts 2:29-31, we read, “Men *and* brethren, let *me* speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.” Since Peter was quoting from Psalms written by David, he wanted to make it clear that David was not speaking of himself. He reminded the people that David was dead, he had been buried and that his tomb was still in the land at that very time.

Peter pointed out that David was a prophet who had written about the promise that God had made to David. God had promised him that one of his descendants by physical birth would be raised up to sit on the throne of David. David understood that this was a clear statement about the fact that the Father would raise Christ from the dead to sit on the throne of David. That is why Peter had quoted the words of David in Acts 2:26-27 which say, ““Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”” David looked forward to the fact that the Father would raise Christ from the dead.

That is why Peter went on to say in Acts 2:32-35, ““This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’”” Peter told the Jews on the Day of Pentecost that God had raised Jesus from the dead. He said that the disciples who had been speaking that day were all witnesses of the fact that the Father had raised Christ from the dead.

Peter said that the Father had now exalted Christ and that Christ was sitting on the right hand of God. In John 7:37-39, Christ had said, “On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” Peter said that the Father had now fulfilled the promise that Christ had given at the feast by pouring out the Holy Spirit on the followers of Christ. Peter said that the Jews in Jerusalem could both see and hear that the followers of Christ had received

the Holy Spirit. They could see the tongues of fire and hear the wonderful works of God in the various languages of the Jews who had been born in different areas.

Peter then quoted another verse written by David in Psalm 110:1 where we read, “The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” It was not David who was sitting at the right hand of the Father. Instead, it was Christ, the One that the Father had raised from the dead, that was now sitting at the right hand of the Father. Peter made it clear that what was happening that day was in fulfillment of the promises that were made many years earlier in the Old Testament.

The clear explanation by Peter had shown that Christ was the One who had fulfilled the promises given by God through David. Peter gave one final statement and then we see the response of the people who were listening. Acts 2:36-37 says, “‘Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.’ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’” Peter told the people that the Father had fulfilled His promise. Peter said that all Israel could know that the Father had kept His word. The Father had made Jesus, the One that they had crucified, both Lord and Christ. These two names point out the fact that Christ is God and that He is also the Anointed One of God.

As the people heard the words that Peter spoke, the Holy Spirit was convicting the people of their sin and guilt. In fact, we read that the people were cut to the heart. Here, we see the difference between an intellectual understanding and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. The word translated “cut” means *to stab or to pierce*. The words of Peter produced sorrow of heart because of the conviction of sin. Christ had promised the disciples the night before His death that He would send the Holy Spirit. John 16:8-9 says, “‘And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me.’” Here, we see that the Holy Spirit does exactly as Christ had promised and convicted the people of their sin of unbelief. The Holy Spirit will do the same today as we share what the Bible says about the sin of unbelief, the fact that Christ is the Righteous One and the fact that Satan is already judged.

As the people asked what they should do, Peter and the other apostles told them to repent. Acts 2:38-40 says, “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, ‘Be saved from this perverse generation.’” The word translated “repent” means *to change one’s mind*. It is illustrated in 1 Thessalonians 1:9 where we read, “For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” True repentance means that a person turns to God from whatever that person is following and that it causes a person to serve the living and true God. The people were told to show that they had truly repented in their hearts by being baptized to show their identification with Christ. Peter promised that true repentance would result in forgiveness of sins.

Peter also told the people that if they repented they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This gift is received at the moment of salvation. Acts 10:45 says, “And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.” The Jewish believers were amazed because the Gentiles received the gift of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation just as they had. When Peter explained this to the church in Jerusalem, Acts 11:16-17 says, “Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, “John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?” Here, we see that Peter explained to the church at Jerusalem that being baptized with the Holy Spirit is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9-11 says that the gift of the Holy Spirit is what gives us spiritual life. Those verses say, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.” We receive spiritual life and the gift of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter told those who were listening that the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit was to both the Jews and the Gentiles (those who are afar off). In the church, we see that God has broken down the division that had previously existed between the Jews and the Gentiles. Ephesians 2:11-13 says, “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” We see that all people whether Jews or Gentiles are brought near to God by the blood of Christ. This is why every Christian can be filled with hope and confidence as we look toward the future.

We also see that Peter spoke many other words in addition to what is written here in the book of Acts to encourage the Jews to repent and place their faith in Christ so that they could be saved from this perverse generation. In this sermon, we see that Peter worked with each member of the Trinity because the Holy Spirit convicts (John 16:8-11), the Father draws (John 6:44) and the Son seeks and saves (Luke 19:10). In the same way, we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to work with the Trinity as they learn to present the message of the death and resurrection of Christ to others. We want to help them learn to share the Word of God in love so that each member of the Trinity can carry out their ministry to bring people to repentance and faith. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to proclaim the message of the resurrection.