

PETER'S GREAT SERMON

Acts 2:14-36

Introduction: For some reason, some preachers think their sermons must be deep, detailed, long and spoken in perfect wording. Peter's sermon is a lesson for all pastors. It is remarkably simple, with nothing to impress the flesh, but there is much to prick the heart. Peter's object was to set forth before the fallen, guilty, needy sinners, the fact that they needed Jesus Christ whom they had crucified. How can that objective be improved upon even today?

I. PETER EXPLAINED WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST (vv14-21)

1. The mocking crowd said that the reason the apostles were acting so strangely was that they were all drunk.
2. Peter told them that a long awaited for prophecy had come to pass. (*Joel 2:28-32*)
 - The "last days" began with the coming of the Messiah and lasted until the second coming of the Messiah.
 - The Spirit of God had been poured out upon all people, not just the Jews.
 - God's judgment had fallen on Israel for rejecting and crucifying Christ.
 - The Gospel of the grace of God is now to be proclaimed to all nations.

II. PETER PROCLAIMED THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST vv22-24)

1. If Jesus was the Christ of God, how was it that He was nailed to a cross?
2. The miracles performed by Jesus Christ were indisputable facts of public record.
3. Why, then, did Christ, the God-man come to die the painful, shameful death He did?
 - The only way sinners could be saved is by the satisfaction of justice.
 - The only ONE who could satisfy justice is the Son of God.
4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ was God's public declaration that justice has been satisfied.

III. PETER GIVES PROOF FROM THE SCRIPTURE THAT THE MESSIAH MUST BOTH SUFFER DEATH AND BE RESURRECTED (vv25-31)

1. Peter quoted *Psalms 16:8-11* showing that David's words were a prophecy of Jesus Christ's death, resurrection, and exaltation. (*John 12:28-32; 17:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 12:1-3*)
2. The person spoken of was not David, but David's Lord, Jesus Christ.

IV. PETER DECLARES THAT JESUS CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, HAS BEEN GIVEN DOMINION AS LORD OVER ALL GOD'S CREATION (vv32-36)

1. Jesus, the Christ, who has been crucified is now the exalted King of heaven and earth.
2. Sooner or later every person must bow to, and acknowledge the rightful dominion and Lordship of Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. God's message does not have to be complicated nor filled with thrilling stories to pierce our hearts.
2. Anytime a believer acts under the influence of the Holy Spirit, he/she will act differently than the unbelievers around him/her.
3. Jesus proved Himself to be God over and over then, and today.
4. Every person will one day stand before this same Jesus that Peter so boldly preached about in this text and the same Jesus we worship today.