

Acts Part 4 – The Model Sermon

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney Wednesday, September 16, 2015

† Acts 2:14-41

We stopped in verse 13 last week after seeing the Holy Ghost come down and indwell within the faithful followers of Christ, which departed unto them the ability to speak in languages other than their native tongue. There were numerous people there from different places and each one could hear the men speaking in their native languages. The Bible says **Acts 2:12-13: And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? 13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.**

And that is where we pick up in this lesson tonight with Peter defending these Holy Ghost filled men:

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Now, I said the theme of this lesson is “The Model Sermon.” I want you to notice how Peter’s sermon begins. The Bible says that he “lifted up his voice.” You can only imagine how loud things were at that moment. You have 120 folks filled with the Spirit speaking in foreign languages and you have thousands of people from various regions there wondering what is going on. So it is pretty chaotic. So Peter must project his voice to be heard above all of this noise and get their attention.

Friends, a preacher needs to be heard. The very word “**preacher**” means “**One who heralds the Gospel.**” To herald is to proclaim with enthusiasm the message you are proclaiming. The person that heralds has a very important message that needs to be heard so he will make sure that he projects his voice and demands attention. That is exactly what Peter is doing. He has been given the authority by God to herald the Gospel message so he lifts up his voice to be heard. I’ve never trusted a soft spoken preacher.

Peter is now using the authority given to him by the Lord Jesus in **Matthew 16:19: And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.** Let me read you what Albert Barnes says about this verse which I think perfectly interprets it: He says: “**When the Saviour says, therefore, he will give to Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven, he means that he will make him the instrument of opening the door of faith to the world the first to preach the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles.**” That is what is happening here in our text in Acts 2.

15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

First he has to convince the people that these folks are not drunk. He says “it is but the third hour of the day.” The third hour was 9:00 in the morning. It was forbidden for them to eat or drink before the fourth hour, especially during the Holy time of Pentecost. Only the most brute, worthless, drunks would be drinking at this hour. Clearly there were not 120 brute worthless drunks on the Day of Pentecost running around at 9:00 in the morning.

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Of course, just as Peter said, this was prophecies that the Jews were very well aware of that was spoken by the Prophet Joel. Although the words of Peter are not exact quotes, they are close enough. You can read Joel’s words in **Joel 2:28-32: And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come. 32 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.**

So the prophecies of the Prophet Joel were beginning to come true. When Peter says, “**in these last days,**” he is referring to the time period beginning right there on that day when the Holy Spirit was given to indwell within men, all the way until the end of the world as we know it. This covers from the Church age all the way into Messianic age. Peter’s preaching at Pentecost was just the beginning of it; the pouring out of the Spirit upon all flesh. The other things like sun turning to darkness, and the moon to blood are events that are still yet to come.

22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

So far Peter’s sermon has **demanding attention**, it’s an **urgent message**, he covered the fact that these times **were prophesied**, and now he gets to the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**.

He mentions that Jesus proved himself to be the Messiah sent by God by his miracles, wonders, and signs. There was no denying that fact. He had healed the sick, open blinded eyes, enabled the lame to walk, and raised the dead. He gave them all of the signs that were required of the Jews to prove himself as the Messiah.

23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

Then Peter really lays into them. He reminds them that it was them that delivered the Messiah to a counsel that had killed him. They were the ones that should have been protecting him, but instead they delivered him and it was them and their own religious leaders that were responsible for his death. By their wicked hands they crucified the Lord Jesus.

24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Then Peter tells them of the resurrection of Christ. Just as we preached on last Sunday night on the doctrine of the resurrection; Jesus was resurrected by the power of God the Father. He loosened the pains of death. Never again will Christ die again, he is not beholden of death any longer because he defeated death, hell, and the grave.

25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

Again, Peter reaches back to the Old Testament and quotes the Psalms to prove to them that this Jesus they crucified was the promised Messiah: **Psalms 16:8-11: I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. 10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 11 Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.**

The application here is showing that Jesus came to do the will of the Father. He not only did the will of the Father, but he did it with joy. And now Jesus is at the right hand of the Father working on our behalf.

That is why the Apostle Paul writes in **Ephesians 1:19-20: And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,**

So, Peter is expressing exactly what the Messiah that they crucified is doing for those that believe on Him.

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

Now, Peter sets about proving that Jesus was the Promised Messiah, and not David. Remember, these Jews put more stock in the patriarchs and their past history than anything. David of course being the most beloved King of the Jews in all of history and since he wrote those passages from the Psalms that we just read, these Jews may have thought that David was referring to himself as the one that was going to be lifted up and seated on the right hand of the Father. So, Peter points out the fact that David is dead and buried and they could go to his sepulcher and find his bones and the dust of David because he remains dead and buried. So there was no way that the Psalms was referring to David himself, but to someone else.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Notice that Peter uses the word “**Christ**” here. Contrary to some people’s belief, “Christ” is not Jesus’s last name. Lord is his title, Jesus is his name, and Christ is His office. The actual Greek word for Christ is “**Christos**,” which means; “the anointed one, the Messiah, the Son of God.” All of these Jews were well aware of what The Christ was. He was the One they had been waiting on all of their lives to be their deliverer. Even the Samaritan woman at the well knew this: **John 4:25-26: The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.** Peter is making the case that since it wasn’t David because he is still dead and buried, then it has to be someone else.

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

And now Peter drives it home to them. No, it wasn’t the beloved King David that was resurrected and now sits at the right hand of the Father, but it is in fact Jesus of Nazareth, whom you all crucified. God has raised Him up and we are all witnesses of that fact. If you go to his sepulcher it is empty. You won’t find dust and bones because he has risen.

And it is this Jesus who is now at the right hand of God and is exalted. Or as the Apostle Paul puts it in **Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:** It is this Jesus who is responsible for these men that are prophesying and speaking in these different languages.

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Peter then gives them a stab in the heart. He tells them that it was them that crucified the Christ. They were responsible for the death of their Promised Messiah. What an awful thing for them to have to hear. Despite all of the signs, and all of the proof that was given to them by Jesus, they denied who He was and had him killed.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

That word “**pricked**” means; “**to pierce through, to agitate violently.**” It was as if Peter had taken a sharp knife and plunged it into their hearts. They were overcome with grief. They were horrified of their actions and they ask the desperate question that every lost sinner on the face of the earth must ask; “**what shall we do?**”

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

And that is the universal answer for salvation; repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Now, I want to make something perfectly clear here. Peter is not teaching that baptism is necessary for salvation. We will see this as it unfolds.

WATER OR SPIRIT BAPTISM?

There is some debate as to whether Peter is referring to water baptism or spirit baptism. You can build a strong case for either one of these. I want to give you both views concerning this:

WATER BAPTISM: If Peter is referring to **water baptism**, then he is speaking of what they would do after repenting. Now, I'm not going to go into a great detail about repentance. I've preached and taught on it numerous times in the past and I have also written an 8 page Seminary Thesis on the subject that you are welcome to read if you want, just let me know after the service and I'll see that you get a copy.

Repentance, as we have always taught, is a change of mind. It is a turning from sin and toward the Savior. You change your mind from your self-reliance to placing your full faith in the saving grace of Christ's finished work on the cross.

So repentance is necessary for salvation. Anyone who teaches otherwise is not teaching the Bible. Then after being saved, we are to be baptized as an outward sign to the world that we are identifying with Christ. Our baptism symbolizes our death to the old sinner man and our newness of life in Christ Jesus.

These Jews knew of John's baptism, which they knew as "**the baptism of repentance**." Just as we see in:

Mark 1:4: John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach **the baptism of repentance** for the remission of sins.

And in Luke 3:3: And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching **the baptism of repentance** for the remission of sins;

And in Acts 13:24: When John had first preached before his coming **the baptism of repentance** to all the people of Israel.

And lastly in Acts 19:4: Then said Paul, John verily baptized with **the baptism of repentance**, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

So the Jews understood baptism to be the follow-up to repentance.

SPIRIT BAPTISM: Now, if Peter is referring to **Spirit Baptism**, there is also a good case for that as well.

From the lips of John the Baptist himself: **Mark 1:8:** I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

And in **John 1:33:** And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Or from the words of Jesus: **Acts 1:5:** For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

So, there is some evidence that Peter perhaps could have been referring to Spirit baptism.

I personally believe that he meant **water baptism** and was referring to what they would naturally do after repenting and trusting Jesus as Savior. Just as we see in the example of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch after he preached Jesus to him: **Acts 8:36-38:** And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Regardless of whether he was referring to water or spirit, the fact is baptism is not necessary for salvation. If it were the thief on the cross would not have gone to paradise as Jesus promised him he would. It would also make Ephesians 2:8-9 untrue as well: **Ephesians 2:8-9:** For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Now we see the results of Peter's powerful sermon... about 3,000 souls were saved! Talk about a mighty move of God!

Finally let's look at the Peter's model sermon:

1. He preached boldly by lifting up his voice so all could hear.
2. He preached with authority using the Word of God as his proof.
3. He preached prophetically, using many prophetic passages from the O.T.
4. He preached to glorify God and not himself.
5. He preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
6. He preached with urgency, letting his audience know how important it was.
7. He preached with Holy Ghost conviction.
8. He preached repentance, just as Jesus commanded us to do.
9. He preached expectantly, expecting the hearer to respond to the Word.

I want you to notice what Peter did NOT preach.

1. He didn't preach about himself.
2. He didn't tell jokes or homespun stories.
3. He didn't use other resources outside of the Word of God.
4. He didn't use flashing lights, drum beats, or external stimuli.
5. He didn't hold back from preaching the truth to please men.

My friend, we should follow the examples given to us in the Bible to reach lost souls today. It is man that has changed, not the Lord. The Bible says that He does not change. **Hebrews 13:8:** Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version