

Acts, Sermon #4

Acts

The Book of Acts is the History Book of the (N. T.) church. Let's recap Acts 1.

First, Jesus ascended. **Second**, the disciples went to Jerusalem to wait... for what?

What was the Holy Spirit going to do... empower them to do a world wide work.

In Acts 2, the Holy Spirit came.

What happened after the coming of the Spirit?

There was wind, fire, the ability to speak in foreign languages fluently. This caused quite a stir and in response to that stir, a sermon was preached.

I've entitled today message: "The First Sermon of the Church"

Acts 2:22

Let us stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Acts 2:22-41

Let us pray

You may be seated.

The First Sermon of the Church

I just read to you the very first sermon ever preached in the history of the Christian church and Peter got the honor to preach it.

Now if you remember that Peter was told by Jesus that he would be given the keys to the kingdom in Matthew 16:19. Peter opened that kingdom to the Jews in Acts 2 by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, but he also opened the kingdom to the Gentiles, in Acts 10:34. Peter preaches another sermon in Caesarea beginning in vs. 34, 38-48.

Peter then returns to Jerusalem and rehearses what happened.

11:15-18, Peter had opened the kingdom to the Gentiles. Whosoever will!

Back to Acts 2, in this sermon, Peter is putting the key into the lock. He's going to turn that key and their hearts will be unlocked and the Lord Jesus enters right in and the kingdom will be extended into 3,000 peoples lives after one sermon, Acts 2:41.

What kind of sermon was it? Folks, it was a powerful sermon and the message was used of God.

In the Book of Acts, when we look at the sermons found in it, we find three things.

- I. Preaching occupies a major role and that simply tells us that the church is intended to have as one of its major elements, preaching. Any church that pushes aside or minimizes preaching does not resemble the early church.

Churches today advertize and promote their "short sermons." More music, less preaching.

As we look through Acts, we will find 15 sermons, Peter preached, Stephen preached, Paul preached, and James preached;

It is the intention of Jesus Christ that preaching occupy a major portion of what is going on in the church.

Acts 5:42, *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

Acts 8:4, *Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.*

Preaching is a major part of the church and in any church that is on target, it is a central feature.

In this sanctuary, we have a pulpit that causes attention to be focused right here. In some churches the pulpit is minimized. It's hardly seen, hard to find, and the fad today is that it doesn't even exist in some places.

Preaching communicates the written Word. So preaching occupies a major emphasis.

II. The second thing we find in the sermons of Acts is that they are filled with scripture and that is illustrated in the first sermon.

This sermon began in verse 14 and continues through verse 40. This sermon is primarily made up of four O.T. passages:

First, vs. 16-21 – Joel 2:28-32

Second, vs. 25-28 – Psalms 16:8-11

Third, vs. 30 – Psalms 132:11

Fourth, vs. 34-35 – Psalms 110:1

In Acts we find that the sermons are scripture packed. In today's world, sermons are packed with a lot of things besides the Bible; filled with stories, psycho babble, positive thinking, self esteem.

Old lady on T.V. said, "Where's the beef"?

The first sermon is built upon four O.T. passages, one in the Minor Prophets and three from Psalms. The thing that unifies those four passages is that they are all about the same person.

You want to guess what person? Jesus Christ. That's our third point.

III. Thirdly, in the sermons of Acts, preaching is Christ centered. Much of today's preaching is self centered!

Remember when Jesus walked on the Emmaus Road with some disciples after His resurrection?

The Bible says that Jesus

Luke 24:27, And beginning at Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Deuteronomy) and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

Preaching is to communicate Jesus Christ.

Let me show you this.

Let's take a deeper look at the first sermon in church history; a sermon that is scripture based, Christ centered.

We have a Pastors in Training Class, P.I.T. Crew, seminary

(Hermeneutics Course – The Art and Science of interpreting scripture)

Before I can preach, I have to know what it says

A sermon is made up of basically three parts, introduction, body, conclusion, application or what we call invitation. That's exactly what we see in Acts 2!

First, the introduction to the sermon is the prophecy of Joel, vs. 17-21. The introduction ends with a proposition. A proposition is a proposal to the audience for acceptance (something I want you to get or to do from this message), vs. 21, of ability.

You can be saved. Anybody can be saved. That's the proposition, that's the main idea. You notice no one is saved in vs. 22.

Now in vs. 22-36, we have the body of this sermon. The body is to prove or convince you of the proposition. Verse 22, what words? Jesus is the first word in the body of the sermon. How does the body end in vs. 36? What do you think Peter is preaching about? Jesus Christ

The proposition, vs. 21, which Peter preaches is that Jesus is the Messiah (Christ) and Lord, (vs. 36). He is the one that can save you!

In the body there are three strong proofs.

1. vs. 22, The works of Jesus on earth substantiated that Jesus is Lord and Christ, (vs. 22). Jesus had shown that He was sent of God.
2. vs. 24, The resurrection substantiated that Jesus is Lord and Christ. When Jesus was crucified and slain, He did not stay in the grave nor did His body rot.

Thirdly, The outpouring of the Holy Spirit demonstrated that Jesus is Lord and Christ. vs. 33.

Vs. 34-35

How do you become the footstool of Jesus? Voluntarily through receiving Christ—some involuntarily but all will bow; every knee at the name of Jesus and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus quoted this too back in Matt. 22:41-45.

Back to our sermon in Acts 2.

All the way through this message, Peter preaches about the Lord Jesus Christ.

How do we know where the kingdom has been extended? Where you have the enemies at His feet, voluntary

We are at enmity with God if we have not surrendered to Christ.

Jesus said whoever is not with me, is against me and whoever is not sowing with me, is scattering abroad. Jesus absolutely polarizes people. There is no middle of the road or riding fences.

The summation of all this is in verse 36, look at the capstone.

Vs. 36 – therefore, Jesus is both the reigning Lord and risen Christ, Messiah

Do you believe that?

Rom. 10:9, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

13, *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

The sermon was powerful, vs. 37a, if no one is moved, no piercing of the heart, then there is no conviction of the Holy Spirit in the preaching. The Holy Spirit convicts individuals through preaching, vs. 37b.

Vs. 38 – invitational/applicational – two things

1. **Repent.** Do you think repentance is for today?

Acts 17:30, *but now (God) commandeth all men every where to repent*

II Peter 3:9, *God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

What does repent mean? Change our minds. What did the Jews need to change their minds about? These people were to change their mind about Jesus Christ. Acts 2:23b; Acts 2:36d

The words “repent” and “believe” are used interchangeably in the Bible. They are the same coin.

“Repentance” places the emphasis upon turning **from** sin (wrong direction) in order **to** turn to the Lord, whereas “believe” places the emphasis upon turning **to** the Lord, having turned **from** sin. A dual emphasis of the turning to **and** from is found in another word “conversion.”

Acts 3:19

Acts 3:19 shows what brings remission of sins is not water baptism but repentance and conversion. The close connection of baptism with repentance should not surprise us. The N.T. always assumes that a true Christian will obey his Lord and be baptized.

Baptism would be the public evidence of a repentant spirit. Repentance was the inward sign and baptism was the outward sign of a believer.

Baptism was the first thing they were commanded to do. N.T. believers were all baptized. Any unbaptized believer is a disobedient Christian.

Christ died publicly for us. Jesus identified with our sin publicly. He took it all on Golgotha.

Acts 2:40

He said other things. We do not know how long the sermon lasted. We don't know the emotion, gestures or fervency of delivery.

Homiletics – giving of the message

The summary of the His words were vs. 40e, save yourself. 3,000 people believed, stepped forward and were baptized.

This works. Let us not ever discount preaching – preach the scriptures, preach Christ, preaching that is Spirit driven to break the receptors hearts.

The First Sermon of the Church

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed. When did you repent and believe? Do it right now.

Call on Jesus to save you.

Have you repented, changed your mind?

Secondly, have you been baptized? Why not?

This message, this first sermon is the message we need to spread to the world.