

PETER PREACHED CHRIST

TEXT: Acts 10:44: *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word.*

Introduction: Peter was a great preacher. Whether preaching to a multitude at Jerusalem, or to a small group in the house of Cornelius in Caesarea, his theme was Jesus.



1. WHO IS THIS JESUS?

A. God's anointed:

Acts 10:38: How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

B. Ordained Judge of the living and the dead:

Acts 10:42: And He commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is He which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

C. Saviour to those who believe in Him:

Acts 10:43: To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.

Note: In lifting up the Christ to Cornelius in this way, no wonder the "Holy Ghost fell on all them that heard the Word".

Note: Charles Spurgeon, in telling seminary students how to choose sermon matter, said:

"Preach Christ, always and evermore. He is the whole Gospel. His person, offices and work must be our one great, all comprehending theme. The world still needs to be told of its Saviour and of the way to reach Him."

1. Churches search, in vain, for programs and methods to generate lasting enthusiasm that will last forever.
2. Personal witness will be effective, only if it exalts Christ.

2. HIS WORK AMONG MEN

- A. Caring for His family and providing for His widowed mother
- B. Instructing people in the things of God
- C. Preaching peace
- D. Demonstrating God's love for all ages; and for all types of people
- E. Countless deeds could be listed, then at the end we would have to add, as John did in his Gospel:

John 21:25: And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

3. HIS MIRACLES

A. Over Nature

1. Walking on water
2. Stilling the storm
3. Multiplying loaves of fish
4. Turning water into wine



B. Spiritual Miracles

1. Changing Peter from a rough fisherman, to an impetuous disciple, then to a leader among men, and strong witness for the Lord
2. John - from an intolerant, selfish disciple to a mature Christlike man who wrote of the depth of God's love, and how it should be evident in a Christian's life

3. **The woman at the well – from one content to live in sin, to a missionary telling people to come to Jesus**

4. HIS TRIUMPH OVER DEATH

- A. **The cry “It is finished” spoke of the work that He did. He accomplished our redemption.**
- B. **His life was not finished. His disciples then testified of His resurrection.**



1. **His disciples today know His living Presence.**

5. WHAT SAY YE OF CHRIST?

- A. **Do we, as Peter did, believe all these things about Christ?**
 1. **Is it enough to believe it?**
 2. **Is it enough to say it?**
 3. **Do we really demonstrate it?**
- B. **Do we live victoriously, joyfully, lovingly?**

ILLUSTRATION:

A minister had a habit of going over to his church on Saturday evenings to go over his Sunday morning sermon. One evening his five year old son answered the phone and told the caller his dad was over at the church, “Practicing”.



APPLICATION:

We need to practice what we preach in Church, but let’s get out into the world and preach.

Tell it by our lives: that we know Christ’s love, and that we are transmitters of it to the world He loves and died to save.

CONCLUSION:

Rev. Massey Mott says of Him, “We can think of no wrong that was in Him, of no virtue that was not in Him. When He said “Follow ME”, people followed.”

(from Reverend Massey’s book “The Invincible Christ” – Abingdon.)

And disciples of His in this 20th century are reminded that He said in:

Acts 1:8b: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 4:29: And now, Lord, look upon their threatenings: and grant unto Thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak Thy Word,

SUPPLEMENT

Peter is especially thinking of the motive of healing in our text. His miracles were one of the greatest joys of the early church.

Mark 16:17-20:

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My Name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into Heaven, and sat on the Right Hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following. Amen.



Signs follow the believers. James — Prayer of faith — anointing with oil. Today WE ARE OFTEN EMBARRASSED TO SPEAK OF HEALING AND MIRACLES, AND TRY TO EXPLAIN THEM AWAY.

JESUS' MIRACLES FALL IN THREE GROUPS



1. Miracles of healing: Miracles on diseased and maimed men.

Over 90% of Jesus' ministry was healing the sick. Jesus healed lavishly and joyfully, and not grudgingly or on rare occasions as some think.

Doing good was lifting sufferers up and making them well. Jesus healed individuals who came to Him. He healed the Leper and made him whole. Jesus chose health instead of sickness, and the Leper was healed.

Jesus healed a woman bowed together. Scribes and Pharisees said there were only 6 days to heal and not to heal on the Sabbath. Jesus said, "You remove an ox from the ditch on the Sabbath. Why not heal this woman whom satan had bound these years?"

THIS WAS GOING GOOD.

We worry today about some who misuse healing and make light of doctors, hospitals, or claim individual power to heal, and neglect this great truth: there is nothing God cannot do.

2. Miracles within the souls of men:

- a) Changed Peter the reed to Peter the rock
- b) John with his hatred to John the Apostle of love
- c) Demonic in tombs to a missionary
- d) Woman at Jacob's well
- e) Woman caught in adultery

Some people are strong physically but sick spiritually. Jesus takes care of both.

3. Miracles in realm of nature:

- a) Fed thousands with few loaves and fishes



b) Stilled the storm when crossing Galilee

c) Jesus raised the dead - Jairus' daughter

Jesus works miracles on the bodies of men, in the hearts of men and within the realm of nature. Peter tells by what power Jesus performed these miracles and how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost. Jesus, through the Spirit and faith, performed miracles. We, too, can have this Power.

What do we do with Jesus' Ministry of Miracles?

1. Reject miracles
2. Believe in them, but not for today
3. Accept them for today, but live beneath our privilege

His Radiant Ministry shows that God was with Him:

This is a part of the sermon Peter preached in the house of Cornelius. Cornelius had been praying and God answered his prayer by telling him where to get a preacher. Peter came and delivered God's message to Cornelius and our Subject was the heart of his sermon.



Acts 10:38: How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.

Peter tells us the high use Jesus made of life — not selfish, but unselfish.

James and John came to Jesus one day asking for a special privilege. Jesus impressed them that He came to minister, not be ministered to. Jesus said in:

Acts 20:3: It is more blessed to give than receive.

Selfish living makes life lose its tang, and springtime gives way to winter or gloom.

In Arkansas, when people are sick and get worse, you ask how they are and they say they are not doing so good — there's no indication of their health returning. Those who are not doing good are always sick.

A young man, tired of life, decided to commit suicide. The man jumped over a bridge into the river to commit suicide. A friend, who could not swim, followed him and jumped, also. He rescued his friend and GAVE HIM SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR.

Jesus went about doing good indicates:

- 1. Doing good needs to be done.**
- 2. He cares for others.**
- 3. He recognized the presence of evil.**

Jesus never ignored the tragedy of evil through sin, disease, demons, and fear. Jesus also recognized the evil of sin — separating a man from his God. Jesus believed evil could be cured through good. The devil brings evil – God brings good. Jesus believed man was lost but could be saved. MAN MUST COOPERATE WITH GOD TO BE SAVED.

Jesus also recognized the evil of sin -- separating a man from his God.

Jesus turned His back on the carpenter shop and went about doing good until they nailed Him to the Cross. Christians should follow His example.

WHAT GOOD DID JESUS DO?

The full answer to this question is impossible. Jesus showed men the character of God, through His words, deeds, and life.

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