

Missio Dei Fellowship exists to glorify God by delighting in Him and making Him known through the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Who Is Jesus?

Acts 10:36-48

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SermonAudio Blurb: Peter is now ready to address the house of Cornelius, filled with friends and family of this Centurion. But what is his message? It begins and ends with the person and work of Jesus. In this short series we walk through his words to see the many qualities that belong to Jesus and see the utter centrality of Him in all things.

I. Introduction.

A. Read vss 36-48.

B. Peter is now in the house of Cornelius in Caesarea.

1. Filled with people invited by this centurion.
2. Peter knows the purpose of his visit, it is to teach these people all that is necessary to understand and believe in Jesus.
3. He has learned some lessons himself along the way:
 - a. That God is truly impartial and therefore all shall have to answer to their Creator and no favoritism shall exist. Nor are those who love God to show favoritism and avoid other people groups.
 - b. And that God welcomes and accepts all who truly fear Him and do what is right.
4. So now the whole story is set up for us and we get to the core of the point of this event. Salvation is coming for the Gentiles so what does Peter begin to teach? It is all about Jesus.

C. Absolute necessity of getting Jesus Christ right.

1. Many things can be off and often are in a person's faith but if you get Jesus wrong then everything else falls apart.
2. This is so critical to understand because one tool Satan will use against a Christian is to divert his attention and words off of the simplicity of the message about Jesus and onto many other important things.
3. Acts 4:12:

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4. John 14:6:
5. 1 Corinthians 3:11:

D. The message of the Apostles was very simple and straight-forward. It was all about Jesus.

1. If they were speaking to non-Christians:
2. If they were speaking or writing to Christians:
3. Take Jesus out of the equation and you have:

E. Today we will begin to see 13 qualities about Jesus that Peter makes reference to in the process of bringing the fulness of the good news to this household.

II. 13 Qualities about Jesus.

A. Peace-Maker (36a).

1. The bible makes it clear that due to the state of sin that rules in the heart of every person. And so the prophet Ezekiel says that the soul that sins must die.
2. We saw last week the reality of the power of our sin nature, often called the “flesh” in the New Testament. And the one captured by the flesh is not one who is a believer.
3. And so Paul tells us in Romans 8:5:
4. But through Jesus and only through Jesus, one can be declared righteous.
5. And so the bible wonderfully tells us that peace is ours through Jesus.
 - a. As Peter says in our passage, we preach peace through Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Why? Because in Jesus we have peace with God.
 - (2) But did we approach God for peace?

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(3) Colossians 1:19-20:

b. This also then brings peace between people and people groups who would historically have enmity with one another.

(1) In the days of the bible this would break down most simply between the Jew and the Gentile.

(2) And so Paul writes in Ephesians 2:14:

c. And as you learn to rejoice and rest in Christ and not any other thing under heaven you will find that in the midst of great anxiety you will be able to cast your cares upon Him in prayer and He shall grant you much peace in your heart.

d. Truly Isaiah the prophet was right when he called Him the “Prince of peace.”

B. Messiah (36b).

1. The message of the bible makes it clear that Jesus, the Son of God, was sent by God the Father. So to reject Jesus as the Messiah, the sent one, is to reject the Father Himself.

2. John 5:22-23:

3. Early in the ministry of Jesus we find Him quizzing His disciples. In Matthew 3:13-16 we see this event and we learn a few things in studying it:

a. First:

b. Second:

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c. Third:

d. Fourth:

4. For the people Peter is speaking to this is important to know. Cornelius was a man who feared God. This means he knew the Old Testament and believed in YHWH as the true and only God. And it meant that he would have believed and hoped for the promise that the Messiah, or Christ. So hearing that Jesus is the Christ who brings peace was wonderful news.

C. Lord (36c).

1. Then, having said that Jesus is the One who brings peace and that He is the Christ, we have this parenthetical statement (He is Lord of all).
2. If that statement, Lord of all, ought to cause us to stop and do some serious thinking. And if it doesn't then it reveals something about us that needs correcting.
 - a. Note it is a fact (indicative).
 - b. Note that it is not contingent on anything.
 - (1) There is a horrid doctrine that has been pervasive through the American church for many decades where the idea is that Jesus can be your Savior but He also wants to be the Lord of your life.
 - (2) Many learn this teaching and it impacts them greatly and they find that suddenly everything begins to change. Sadly they attribute this to thinking that they made the next key step to victorious living.
 - c. Note also how expansive it is.
 - d. Paul picks this very idea up when he writes to the Romans in 10:8-13.
 - (1) This is not merely a statement of kingship but of true sovereignty. It is applying the idea of the name of God, YHWH to Jesus Christ.

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- (2) And it is given here to proud Romans and proud Jews who both must come and kneel in the fulness of their souls to the only Lord.
 - (3) But you are not making Him Lord. You are confessing/agreeing that He is already Lord. It is that crushing, pride-destroying realization that you have been in rebellion to your King. Not that you are somehow deciding you want to vote Him into office.
- e. Romans 14:9.
- (1) Here Paul is speaking of how we are to not hold one day or one dietary decision over another. So verse 6 says regardless we are doing it for the Lord.
 - (2) Note why he can say this in vs 7.
 - (3) But the one thing that is not open for debate is vs 9.
- f. Philippians 2:9-11.
- (1) This says the same thing as Romans 14:9.
 - (2) And again, it is not that in the end everyone will decide to make Him Lord. It is that all shall confess Him to be what He is.
 - (3) This is the foundation for verse 12 then.
- D. Historical (37a).
- 1. In the heyday of magazines you would frequently find throughout each year some cover that would proclaim something along the lines of “In search of the historical Jesus.” And what you would read would be anything but history.
 - 2. Listen today to anyone who claims to be atheist and invariably there will be the challenge of whether Jesus ever existed.
 - 3. The Barna Research group found in 2014 that while most Americans believe there was a man named Jesus; nonetheless it pretty much stopped right there. He was a man. He is not God. He maybe was some sort of spiritual leader. 56% of the Millennials believe that Jesus sinned.
 - 4. But here is the kicker, the majority of Americans polled also said they had made some sort of spiritual, personal commitment to Jesus.

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5. Yet here we can see that Peter has no fears about the historicity of Jesus. He does not even try to prove it; rather, he tells them that they themselves already know all of what happened throughout the land of Judea.

6. And this leads us to the next quality, the focus of the prophets was upon Jesus which will need to wait until next week.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Beloved, in just a few words, Peter brings up a massive amount to truth. These are not just some words to fill in a speech.
 1. He came to preach the truth.
 2. And so without any preamble or catchy illustrations he moves straight into the core issue for every person on earth. What are you going to do about Jesus?
- B. That is my charge to you today. There are only two options before each of you.
 1. One, repent and confess that He is Lord.
 2. Two, if you have done so, consider where you are straying in obedience and in fear, knowing that He is Lord and He is the impartial judge, begin to repent and obey.

Benediction

May our God cause you all to not stumble and to make you stand one day in His presence filled with joy. May God's Spirit hold you in His mighty hand until that day of redemption. And may you find your hope, joy and life in His Son, Jesus Christ the Lord. To Him be the glory and majesty and dominion for all time. Amen