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## *Who Is Jesus? Pt 4*

### **Acts 10:36-48**

**Keywords:** Acts 10, Grace, Person of Jesus, Christology, Lordship, Peace

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** none

**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 10:39-41.**

1. Peace-Maker (36a).
2. Messiah (36b).
3. Lord (36c).
4. Historical (37a).
5. The focus of the prophets (37b).
6. Anointed by the Holy Spirit (38).
7. Sacrifice and High Priest (39)

##### **B. The sacrificial and substitutionary death of Jesus Christ is a wonderful doctrine to consider. But it cannot stand on its own. It must not stand on its own.**

1. As wonderful as it is to consider Jesus dying for us, the reality is that without the resurrection it would be a meaningless act of futility.
2. So the Christian must never be shy of declaring Jesus' resurrection as well. And this is exactly what we see here with Peter. No sooner does he speak of the death of Jesus on the cross than he immediately states "And God raised Him up. . . ."

##### **C. Because of the absolute necessity of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the absolute necessity to believe in that resurrection, we will devote our time today examining it.**

#### **II. 14 Qualities about Jesus.**

##### **A. Resurrected (40-41).**

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1. Note the basics of the resurrection in vs 40:
  - a. The One raising Jesus was the Father and this is the normal way this event is described with the early church.
    - (1) Acts 2:22-24, ***“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again . . .”***
    - (2) Acts 3:14-15, ***“But you denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.”***
    - (3) Acts 4:8-12, ***“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people, if we are being examined today for a good deed done to a sick man . . . let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. . . . And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”***
    - (4) Acts 5:27-31, ***“And when they had brought them, they stood them before the Sanhedrin. And the high priest questioned them, saying, ‘We strictly commanded you not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.’ But Peter and the apostles answered and said, ‘We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you put to death by hanging Him on a tree. This One God exalted to His right hand as a Leader and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”***
  - b. It was on the third day.

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- c. And God made Him visible.
2. All of this speaks to the historicity of the event.
    - a. We are separated from this event by a couple of thousand years, but Cornelius was not. As a centurion it would be very simple for him to inquire in-depth into this whole event as the Roman empire was very much a part of the crucifixion and the burial. He would personally know many of the troops who were in Jerusalem at the time of the crucifixion.
    - b. And this is why Peter can look at this group and state that he, among others, is a witness to that fact. He, like the other disciples, ate and drank with Jesus.
  3. Behind all of this is the fact that He did not merely rise again all by Himself; but that it was done by the Father. God the Father raised up Jesus Christ. Why is this important?
    - a. First, understand that Jesus had made many very bold and big statements during His public ministry.
      - (1) So we have Jesus making the claim of divinity and an intimacy with God that is of the highest sort. And He claims to be sent by God. He claims to be the promised Messiah. He claims that in Him and only in Him will salvation from eternal damnation and forgiveness of sin be found. These are something only God can claim.
      - (2) If these were false then He would be dead still. God would not honor those claims. And only God can raise the dead. So the logic is very simple to follow. God alone can raise the dead. God will not tolerate another claiming to be God, much less His Son. Jesus claimed both. He said the Father sent Him to die on behalf of us. He did so. And then He rose again.
      - (3) What is the simple conclusion. He is who He said He is.
  4. We have now the basics of what Peter proclaims about Jesus. Not only did He die but He was raised again by God the Father. But why does this matter? Why is the resurrection so critical to the Christian message—the gospel. I want us to spend the rest of our time going through one whole chapter devoted to the centrality of the resurrection.

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## B. A survey of 1 Corinthians 15.

1. Vss 1-11 are the foundational facts about the resurrection.
  - a. First, note that if the resurrection is removed or adjusted for so-called “modern” ideas that the consequence is the loss of the gospel.
  - b. Second, we see then a summation of this gospel in vss 3-4. That Jesus Christ died for our sins and having been buried was then raised on the third day. All of this was in accordance to scripture.
  - c. Third, we have a listing of the many who saw our risen Lord. This is impressive as it shows again that this event is not a hidden event where one person claims to be a witness. And at the very end of this list we find Paul.
  - d. Fourth, the gospel message does not change. In vs 11 we see that you pick any true Christian and ask them what is the gospel and they will all say the same basic facts.
2. Vss 12-19 describes the consequences of denying the resurrection.
  - a. In vs 12 we find that even at that early point in the history of the Church, that false teachers are present. They are not overtly denying Jesus’ resurrection. Rather they are going at it tangentially.
  - b. But Paul isn’t going to be real subtle here. Rather, he goes hard and fast at the hellish doctrines these false teachers are saying. And he makes six observations:
    - (1) First, if there is no resurrection from the dead for us then there was none for Christ. That is his first consequence. This is the point of vss 12-13.

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- (2) Second, if Jesus Christ wasn't raised then we are all wasting our time (14).
  - (3) Third, this then makes all of the Apostles to be liars because they all testify that they actually saw the risen Christ (15).
  - (4) Fourth, no resurrection means all who claim to believe in Jesus Christ are still dead in their sins (17).
  - (5) Fifth, all of your relatives who believed the gospel are really in hell if there is no resurrection (18).
  - (6) Sixth, if there is no resurrection then we should stop pitying those who are not Christians. Rather, the opposite is true (19).
3. Vss 20-28 shows why Christ's resurrection is so critical for all believers.
    - a. Here we see that Paul shows that the first Adam brought death and so the second Adam was to undo that whole mess (20-22).
    - b. Jesus' resurrection is critical because all other resurrections flow from His. As such this term became a word to describe the person or event as the first of a coming harvest. In other words, Christ's resurrection is the entire basis for our resurrection.
    - c. Here is the key point in this: Without Christ's resurrection there is no reason to believe you will be raised up. But because He was raised then we can rest in the knowledge that though death may take our bodies in time; it is not the end (23).
    - d. Right now Christ is seated with His Father in heaven. He functions as our perfect sacrifice and priest; and when He returns He will raise up all who are His. And then we will co-reign as He subjugates all the earth under His feet (24-28).
  4. Vss 29-34 gives practical observations regarding the resurrection.
    - a. Whenever you deny a doctrine that is explicitly taught in the Scripture you start a slow trickle of unintended consequences. At first a person can come across as merely nuanced and open-minded. But give it time and the end result will be harm to the Church.
    - b. Vs 29 is a very strange verse that gives us very little to work with for understanding.

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- c. In vs 30 he raises the next consequence of rejecting the resurrection—why would anyone put themselves in danger over their testimony of Jesus Christ who was crucified and raised up?
  - d. So in vs 32 he states that only because of the promise of the resurrection do we live as we are commanded to live.
  - e. Rebuking those who are allowing these false teachers into their lives (33), he calls them to arrange their lives in light of the resurrection rather than the hope that they can do what they want and it doesn't matter.
5. Vss 35-58 closes the argument out by showing the folly of rejecting the resurrection.
- a. We see the sort of questions the false teachers are teaching in vs 35. You could see these as innocent until you read Paul's reaction. "You fool. . . ." He doesn't find this funny, clever or worthy of being treated as legitimate.
  - b. Paul uses a seed as an illustration. Just like it is planted and dies, but out of that death comes true life. So too our bodies are like seeds. They die and yet bring forth life through the resurrection.
  - c. Our bodies right now are fit for this age. Our bodies still carry to presence of sin and cannot take on eternity. Rather, they must die and then be raised on the last day to take on the same body but not the same. It is now raised free from sin and the consequences of sin, which is disease and death.
  - d. This is what is meant by a natural, earthly body and a spiritual body. Not that we will be ghosts or something like that. Rather, the body will be the same and yet different. Like Jesus Christ's. It still

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bore His scars, but it was raised and changed so as to be fit for eternity.

- e. So in the end the mocker will not be death. Rather we shall mock death itself. Where is your victory? It is ripped away by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Where is your sting? It is nailed to the tree with Jesus Christ and taken away as far as the West is to the East.
- f. But for those who trust in the true gospel? We are given victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- g. Therefore, do not become weary. Do not stop and go a different way. Keep pressing on, even in the midst of suffering and the threat of shame or death. Why? Because it is not in vain.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. We cannot play games with the gospel. And the foundation and structure of the good news centers around Jesus Christ's sacrificial death in our place and His bodily resurrection on the third day.
- B. But is it enough for you?
  - 1. The resurrection is said to be the basis of our living hope in 1 Peter 1.
  - 2. The resurrection is the reason that in suffering and persecution we can give a blessing rather than a curse in Romans 12.
  - 3. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the basis for our ability to say no to sin and walk in a manner worthy of our calling in Romans 6.
  - 4. The resurrection of Jesus Christ brings us the ability to not be swept away in the fears of this age for He shall return to make all things new in Revelation 20-21.
  - 5. The resurrection of Jesus Christ makes it possible for us to echo the words of the apostle Paul when he said that he gladly suffers the loss of all things for the sake of gaining Christ in Philippians 3.
- C. Beloved, you and I reflect how much we rest in Christ's resurrection in how we live each day.

### **Benediction**

**May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord cause His face to shine upon you and give you peace. Amen.**