

Good News of Peace for All the People—Acts 10:36-43—4/5/26

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How would you sum up the Gospel?

If you speak with others about this Resurrection Holiday, how will you explain the message of Christianity?

What vital truths are you sure to include about Jesus & why?

Can you answer those questions quickly off the cuff & maybe with a default outline or core points?

As I've asked those questions of people through many years, I've encountered many professing Christians who could not answer.

Some people who know & trust in Gospel promises still lacked a clear understanding or ability to communicate those truths.

I've found some who talked about the **fruit** of a Christian **lifestyle** & others who strung together Bible facts with no reasonable connection.

So what would **you** say? How would you share the Gospel?

You hear me often say **Jesus is God the Son who lived perfectly, died sacrificially & rose victoriously** as a summary of the work of Christ.

You may know that we are sinners who cannot get to God on our own & God Himself has made the only way in Jesus.

Maybe you have memorized an outline that covers **God, man, sin, Christ, salvation, judgment, & a call for response.**

Or perhaps you can walk through key verses in Romans or Ephesians or from various passages.

Today we're going to look at how Peter summed up the Gospel in Acts 10 in preaching to the **Gentiles** gathered in Cornelius's house.

We're going to see Luke's record of **4 basics** that Peter shared.

I'll outline **4 truths** to refresh us in the Gospel for ourselves & others.

Perhaps some of you will realize that you did **not** truly know the Gospel & God will use Peter's words to save you today.

And perhaps many of us simply need some **reminders** to strengthen **weak** areas in what we share or to **deepen** worship in how we respond.

Whatever the need, I pray God will **renew & awaken** us to the riches of the Gospel from Peter's message in **Acts 10:36-43**.

As we turn to Acts 10, recall that Peter preached because God brought him to this house through **visions** given to both Peter & Cornelius.

This was **unexpected** because Jews did not associate with Gentiles, but God led Peter forward with **new revelation**.

We've studied the angel's visit to Cornelius & Peter's vision & Peter's arrival at the house where many were gathered to hear from God.

So let's read what Peter said in Acts 10:34-43. [READ]

We discussed how God is not partial because His choices are freely according to His grace, not based on anyone's worth or birth or family.

Yet He saves by His commands & promises highlighting the reality of Him as Creator who should be feared & followed.

And so in verse 35, Peter pointed to that heart readiness & then moved to the specific revelation needed for salvation.

Read his mention of that revelation in verse 36 again. [READ]

Verse 36 says this was a **word**—meaning a message—that God sent to **the sons of Israel** as the agents of His revelation.

Though He expanded the message over time, it never changed.

God's promise was **always** to save those who turn from sin to the Savior He promised to crush sin & Satan in Genesis 3:15.

There was **always** an offer of **salvation & peace** for those who knew their sin & feared God's wrath & longed for restoration.

And that was **always** by the **Promised Seed**, Israel's coming **Messiah**.

The word **preaching** in verse 36 is the root for **evangelism**—it's **announcing good news of peace**, the Gospel that brings peace.

That peace ends the war between humans and God & brings peace **through** Jesus **the Christ**, where *Christ* is that word for Messiah.

So we can note a 1st point in summarizing Scripture's message: **#1, the Gospel includes Jesus' Peaceful Offer.**

As a 1st of 4 truths today, **the Gospel includes Jesus' Peaceful Offer.**

As Romans 5:8 & 10 say, we were all sinners & hostile enemies against God before God initiated His love in Christ.

Humanity has been waging war against God since the first sin, seeking a hostile takeover of God's rule with rebellion all through history.

A judgment will come to end the war & punish God's enemies.

But verse 36 reminds us that there is **Good News of peace** that God sent **to the sons of Israel** that is being preached through Jesus Christ.

That peace is nearly synonymous with salvation & it **always only** came **through the Christ** even before Jesus came.

And since Jesus Christ is **Lord of all**, this is an offer **to all**.

In Christ, people of every tribe & tongue & nation can come together in **peace with God & peace with one another**.

At Jesus' birth in Luke 2:10, an angel announced this to shepherds: "*I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people.*"

Luke 2:14 added that a multitude of heavenly host praised God saying, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth **peace** among men with whom He is pleased.*"

Those promises built on promises like Isaiah 52:7, which said, "*How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who **brings good news**, Who **announces peace** And **brings good news** of happiness, Who announces **salvation**, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"*"

Nahum 1:15 used similar wording & Isaiah 40:9 & 61:1 pointed to **God's Servant** Messiah bringing such **Good News**.

You may also recognize those words as quoted in **Romans 10:15** where Paul explained the **necessity of Gospel preachers** being sent.

Before that, Romans 10:12-13 note that "*there is **no distinction between Jew and Greek**; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; "**Whoever** will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.*"

Paul was repeating in Romans 10 what Peter was learning in Acts 10: the Gospel was to the Jew first, but **also** to the Greek (Romans 1:16).

Then Romans 5:1 says, "*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

The Gospel offers justification by faith, which is being **declared right with God** through faith in Jesus as Lord & Christ.

In that right standing, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ & that leads us into peace with one another.

That's what we prize & praise & it's what we preach to offer rescue & reconciliation with God.

That's what we treasure for ourselves & trumpet to the nations.

So just think—why would you not want to share that offer with others?

If you fear sharing the bad news of sin—remember that there's plenty of sin to point to obvious all around us as undesirable.

But more so, tell people that you have peaceful Good News & ask them not to stop listening before you get to that good part.

If you don't like the sins & judgments in the Bible, realize that those contrast with the promise of peace & hope for rescue.

That's reminder #1, clarification #1 of Gospel summary from Peter's message—the Gospel includes Jesus' Peaceful Offer.

And since that peace comes through Jesus Christ, note 2ndly today that the Gospel includes Jesus' Powerful Life.

Basic truth #2, the Gospel includes Jesus' Powerful Life.

Jesus was not a mere man—He was God the Son who became a Man to be the promised Deliverer to crush sin & Satan.

Read Acts 10:37-39 for how Jesus fulfilled the qualifications. [READ]

The powerful life of Jesus as God's Messiah was inescapable 10 years after He had ascended & it is still inescapable now.

The unique power of Jesus was publicly known—*they themselves knew* the matter that happened throughout the whole region of Judea.

As noted before, Philip had gone to Caesarea in Acts 8:40 & his preaching may have reached more Jews in that area.

But we must **also** remember that passages like Matthew 4:24 indicate the word about Jesus spread around all Syria & other regions.

As Paul appealed to King Agrippa in Acts 26:26: *none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corner.*

As many people on the planet now have heard some about Jesus, so those in Peter's time knew some about Jesus of Nazareth.

They knew Jesus began from Galilee after being baptized by John who preached repentance to prepare the way.

Peter's listeners had not heard every detail or the significance of Jesus, but they were acquainted with how Jesus was spoken of a special.

The word '*anointed*' in verse 38 is the verb form of the word for **Christ**, which is Greek for Messiah.

That proved Jesus was the Promised **Servant of the Lord** in Isaiah 11 & 42 & 61, which Jesus clearly **applied to Himself** in Luke 4.

Peter spoke of God pointing to Jesus as the Messiah in words from heaven at Jesus' baptism when the Spirit descended.

You recall how Matthew 4:16-17 reports that "*the heavens were opened, and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him [Jesus], and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."*"

The Spirit's anointing on Jesus was **with power**, as He traveled around doing good & showing His supremacy over the devil.

Jesus proved Himself as the Conqueror of evil by **curing & restoring** not just some people, but all who were dominated by the devil.

As 1st John 3:8 says, "*The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.*"

Such miracles demonstrated God's **power in Jesus** & ultimately displayed **Jesus' deity** as the Son of God.

Jesus claimed that in passages like John 10:30 & the responses of listeners proved they knew He was claiming to be God.

And Jesus' perfect life & proven Deity were **necessary** for Him to make *peace through the blood of His cross* as Colossians 1:19-20 says.

So the Gospel we preach **must include** the powerful life of Jesus as God & man, as God's proven Messiah & Mediator.

Peter & the Apostles were **eyewitnesses of all those things**, which we saw in Acts 1 was a qualification for Apostleship.

Jesus' marvelous words & works were **known & not denied** & *John's Gospel* ended by saying there were *too many to recount*.

Peter was highlighting what the Apostolic eyewitnesses later wrote of Jesus' life in the 4 Gospels that has never been disproved.

Mark's Gospel has historically been known as from Peter & Luke's Gospel opens with mention of his meticulous research.

So in contrast with legends & myths of other religions, Peter was proclaiming **the truth** of Jesus' Powerful Life as God's Messiah.

There never needed to be a modern search for the historical Jesus because His real human life was recorded in Scripture.

The Gospel that we preach has historical roots in ancient promises & actual persons with ultimate focus on Jesus the Christ **in real time**.

That's what's included in the Gospel—that's this 2nd point that **the Gospel includes Jesus' powerful life**.

It's **not** a fairy tale or movie script or AI-generated video or story.

This is real history with real implications.

We are **not** basing our daily life & eternity on some profligate, self-professed prophet whose life had more **problems** than can be counted.

We glory in Jesus whose **undeniable goodness** & **unstoppable healing proved** Him as the **long-hoped-for Messiah**.

We are preaching the Christ proven **from heaven** & **on earth**.

Jesus was not a phantom or fantasy or mere mystical idea.

He is the true historical Hero that we hail & honor!

He is compelling to trust above all & to share with all!

As Peter spoke of all Jesus did in the land of the Jews, read the end of verse 39 where he noted Jerusalem as where Jesus died. [READ]

As in Acts 3:15 & 4:10 & 5:30, **they also** who put Jesus to death refers to **the Jews** who instigated & pressed it forward.

As Peter said in Acts 2:23, they did so by the hands of godless men because Roman soldiers & authorities carried out the crucifixion.

But Peter's words of hanging Him on a tree points to the curse of Deuteronomy 21:22-23 that Jesus endured to pay sin's curse.

That language is intentional because **the history is theological**.

As Galatians 3:13 explains: "*Christ **redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.'***"

1st Peter 2:24 adds further explanation by saying that Jesus "***bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for **by His wounds you were healed.*****"

The point is that Jesus' death crushed sin's curse on His people because He took our place in His body on the cross.

So when Jesus cried out, "*It is finished*", He had conquered sin's curse & completed all that was needed to redeem His people.

But Jesus was **not** defeated by death or overcome by the curse.

Rather, He rose from the dead in victory over sin & its curse of death.

And that leads to a 3rd essential truth for Gospel ministry—note **#3, the Gospel includes Jesus' proven victory.**

As we outline Peter's sermon, we see how **the Gospel includes** (1) Jesus' **peaceful** offer, (2) Jesus' **powerful** life & now **(#3) Jesus' proven victory** that we see in His death & resurrection.

Read verses 40-41. [READ]

This One, this Jesus of Nazareth whose life was so perfect & whose death so unjust, Him God raised on the third day.

As Peter had preached to the Jews in Acts 2:24, "*God raised Him [Jesus] up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.*"

Now that same message of victory was proclaimed to the Gentiles.

God raised Jesus, *not* as a ghost to float around, but in real time on the 3rd day as they counted any portion of a day as a day.

God gave Him to be **visible** & known as a **proven** bodily resurrection.

He did **not** appear to **all** the people, meaning all Jews, but to *witnesses* God had selected before in His sovereign plan.

The Gospels & Acts 1 & 1st Corinthians 15 mention how Jesus appeared to various individuals & groups & 500 at one time.

But here Peter said ***to us***, meaning the Apostles chosen by God as witnesses of Jesus doing all He had said He would do.

Peter described them by the quality of having *eaten together & drank together with Jesus* after He arose from the dead.

Jesus' bodily resurrection was unquestionably tangible & real, which Gentiles would typically not think was possible.

1st Corinthians 15 emphasizes the importance of Jesus' real resurrection as vital to the hope & power of the Gospel.

So here Peter was doing what Jesus had told him in Acts 1:8, being His witness of all this, now to the end of the earth.

Peter was following orders as we read next in verse 42. [READ]

Jesus gave commands to them to proclaim these truths of His powerful life, saving death & proven resurrection.

The preaching would be to the Jewish people & then to all peoples.

Jesus' death & resurrection were not secrets to be kept, but truths to be trumpeted with experiential eyewitness testimony.

His death & resurrection were told in all their theological significance.

Jesus' human life & bodily death & resurrection are realities that have always been essential to true knowledge of Jesus.

Fads of false doctrine have come & go through the centuries with various attacks & attempts to undermine those undeniable truths.

But Peter was clear with Jews first & here with Gentiles that Jesus was fully Man in His substitutionary atonement, meaning His death to pay for the sins of all who trust Him.

And Peter was clear with both Jews & Gentiles that Jesus **did bodily rise** in full confirmation of His victory over sin & death.

That's what we celebrate not only today on Easter as Resurrection Day, but every Sunday as the Lord's Day.

Our Savior is **not** dead like every false religion & their leaders.

Our Lord & Savior is **alive**, never to die again!

As Romans 1:4 says, He "*was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead.*"

And since God alone is Judge, Peter was saying Jesus is God.

God the Father had proven Jesus' supremacy as the One declared & designated in the perfect character & role as Judge.

Jesus spoke of this role given from the Father in John 5:21-29 & Paul mentioned it in Acts 17:30-31 & 2nd Timothy 4:1.

2nd Thessalonians 1:8-9 speaks of Jesus "*dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.*"

Since Jesus has been fixed as Judge, verse 42 says Jesus had ordered them not only to preach, but also to solemnly testify.

That term means to bear witness in matters of extraordinary importance, to **exhort & warn & urge** right responses to Him.

No one can escape Jesus—you cannot run from Jesus—you will face Jesus & you can never get away from that reality.

You may suppress that truth in unrighteousness or ignore it.

You may busy yourself to feel like you have silenced it.

But the truth never goes away that you will stand before Jesus.

That's the emphasis of Him as Judge of the living & the dead.

And that role as Judge brings us to a 4th & final point today—**#4, the Gospel includes Jesus' Pivotal Role**.

The Gospel includes Jesus' pivotal role for every person.

The Gospel includes (1) Jesus' peaceful offer, (2) Jesus' powerful life, (3) Jesus' proven victory, & 4^{thly} & finally Jesus' pivotal role.

Every person must deal with who Jesus is—He is pivotal.

He will be Judge of all that is done & He will give the righteous response that is due.

That response will be punishment for all who face Him on the merits of what you have done.

Imagine every thought, word, & deed of your life being examined in detail to see if it violates or measures up to God's perfect standard.

Even if we lower the standard & use our own self-made standards, just imagine everyone we know examining our lives.

Admit it—we are all **failures!**—none of us measure up.

If we trust in ourselves, we can **all** expect to be judged as criminals who broke the laws of God & deserve to be punished.

Peter was highlighting that Jesus had fulfilled ancient promises like Daniel 7:13-14 to be proven as that ultimate Judge.

But verse 43 reminds us that judgment was **not the only** thing foretold about Jesus in the OT prophets—read that. [READ]

All the prophets **also testified** of another expectation in Jesus, an option different from judgment—that opposite outcome is **forgiveness**.

Isaiah 53 spoke of the Servant of the Lord securing **forgiveness** & Jeremiah 31 promised **forgiveness** in the New Covenant & Zechariah 13 spoke of a **fountain** to deal with sin & impurity.

So Peter was preaching what Jesus had said in Luke 24:44 & 47, “*that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.*” ... [and] “*that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*”

Peter was proclaiming forgiveness of sins in or through Jesus’ name, meaning in & through all He is & has done.

And Peter said **everyone** who trusts Him receives forgiveness of sins.

So see Jesus’ pivotal role —how you respond to Him leads you to either punishment for your sins or forgiveness of your sins.

You can be **certain** of unceasing **torment** under God’s wrath **OR** you can be assured of gracious forgiveness of all your sins.

And the vital difference is your response to Jesus.

Jesus made this peaceful offer of His life credited as yours & His death paying for your sins & His resurrection assuring your eternal life.

So do you believe into Him?—Are you entrusting yourself into His accomplishments & under His rule?

Or are you believing in yourself & trusting your own ideas & rule?

Defining the direction & destiny of your life is that simple—**do you have true faith** in Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness?

Do you rest in His promises or do you think you are ok without Him?

As Jesus charged Peter to do—I urge you & warn you & exhort you to turn from all other trusts & entrust yourself to Jesus.

Peter said forgiveness is for **everyone** who believes in Him.

So we must preach Jesus’ pivotal role to every person.

We cannot shrink back from the eternal importance of how people respond to Jesus—whether they will face Him as Judge or Savior.

You are not being clear with the Gospel if you do not make clear the choice between two paths with no neutral option.

We must preach Christ Jesus as Lord of all, as the Judge all will face.

2nd Corinthians 5:10 says Jesus will also judge believers, **not** to give punishment, but to evaluate our works for rewards.

So it only makes sense to immerse your life entirely in following Jesus

Whether you know Jesus & how you serve Jesus determines your destiny & endless reward.

Listen—why would you **waste** your life serving **yourself**?

Nothing else compares in the return on investment because no one else compares in goodness & faithfulness & supremacy.

So as we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection today, be sure you are clear with the Gospel for your own eternal soul & how you are living for Him.

Trust Him to save you if you have not surrendered in faith & let us know how we can pray for you.

I pray Peter’s sermon in Acts 10:36-43 is a good refresher for us all.

Let’s pray we will respond rightly for His glory & for our good