

# The First Easter Sermon

*April 1, 2018*

## I. The First Easter Sermon

**Acts 2:22-24** Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

**Acts 2:22** “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

### 1. Jesus' life was not just any other life.

**John 3:1-2** Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

*A. God demonstrated His presence through Jesus' life.*

**John 20:30-31** Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

*B. What do you believe about Jesus?*

- Was Jesus real?
- Was Jesus special?

*C. What you believe about Jesus matters.*

## 2. Jesus' death was not just any other death.

**Acts 2:23** This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

*A. God demonstrated His plan through Jesus' death.*

*B. God can use what is bad to accomplish what is good.*

- Jesus died a shocking death.
- Jesus died a shameful death.
- Jesus died a saving death.

**Acts 13:38-39** “Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses.

**Acts 5:35-39** Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

## 3. Jesus' resurrection was the turning point of human history.

**Acts 2:24** But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

*A. God brings possibility to the impossible.*

- God brings hope to the hopeless.

**Romans 8:11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

- God brings life to death.

*B. God demonstrated His power through Jesus' resurrection.*

**Matthew 28:1-6** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.

**Acts 2:24** But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

- **Jesus is the author of life.**

**Acts 3:15** You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

- **Jesus is the victor over death.**

**1 Corinthians 15:55-57** "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Jesus is the Messiah.**

**Romans 10:9-10** If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.