**Acts 10:34-43**

**Peter Preaches Jesus to the Gentiles (Part 2)**

Last Week – Evangelistic flavor – Today we’ll take a deeper look at what Peter told Cornelius and his family/friends.

But first let’ s talk about...

**SLIDE 1**

Peter and the Keys to the Kingdom:

*Matthew 16:15-19*

*“He said to them, “But who do you yourselves say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” 17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”*

The Keys to the Kingdom (the Gospel Message):

1. The Gospel Message reveals the Way of salvation to the Jews

2. The Gospel Message reveals the Way of salvation to the Samaritans

3. The Gospel Message reveals the Way of salvation to the Gentiles

As our passage begins, God has miraculously assembled a church full of devout Gentiles and a pretty good preacher. Peter gets ready to reach into his pocket and fish out the third key. Starting in verse 34 of Chapter 10...

*Opening his mouth, Peter said:*

*“I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him. The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)— you yourselves know the thing that happened throughout Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed. You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.* *We are witnesses of all the things that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.* *God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He be revealed, not to all the people, but to witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He ordered us to preach to the people, and to testify solemnly that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.* *All the prophets testify of Him, that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”*

As I mentioned earlier, this week we will dig deeper into Peter’s first sermon to the Gentiles.

**Vs. 34-35**

*Opening his mouth, Peter said:*

*“I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right is acceptable to Him.*

– Peter is having his own mind and heart expanded by the revelation of God.

From the start, Peter is expressing what he knows.

In this sermon, he is constantly quoting the OT, but he now has a new understanding of these scriptures.

He also preaches what he has witnessed with his own eyes.

He challenges his audience with the truth, what they know and what he has witnessed.

He is quoting, and perhaps understanding for the first time, Deuteronomy 10:17 and Psalm 15:1-2, respectively.

Back in Acts 2, Peter recited from the prophet Joel that “It shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved,”

but at that point Peter didn’t understand the full impact of the prophecy. “Whoever” included non-Jews! It took a waking vision and the audible voice of God to help him see what the impact of Jesus has on all mankind, not just the nation God calls Chosen.

This was a huge thing for Peter to overcome!

Have you overcome it?

Also, if God shows no partiality, should you?

**Vs. 36-37**

*“The word which He sent to the sons of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all)— 37 you yourselves know the thing that happened throughout Judea, starting from Galilee, after the baptism which John proclaimed.”*

- Although the Truth, the Christ, has come through Israel, it is for all, because He is Lord of All. – What does this (“Lord of All”) mean? “King of All.”

- In verse 37, Peter is saying, “Let’s START with what you know to be true...” Then he reminds them.

- Jesus’ ministry started up in Galilee, a racially mixed, “common” place.

It was a place of Gentiles.

That fact that Jesus began His ministry in Galilee is yet another fulfilled prophecy, foretold in Isaiah 9:1-2.

- “After the baptism which John preached...”

What was this baptism, and why did Jesus insist on being baptized?

What John did was a baptism of repentance. It was for the nation of Israel because they needed to be prepared spiritually for the coming of the Messiah.

When Jesus Christ went out to John the Baptist and asked him to baptism Him, John’s responded, “You don’t need to be baptized by me, but I need to be baptized by You.”

John was respecting the fact that Jesus Christ had nothing to repent for or from.

Jesus Christ was perfect, no sin.

But still Jesus insisted, not because He needed to repent but to fulfill all righteousness.

Jesus was fulfilling another part of the Mosaic Law.

He was fulfilling all the requirements of righteousness so that His righteousness could be imputed to all men.

**V. 38**

*“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”*

- This is a deep verse, one that teaches and attests to the doctrine of the Trinity.

We know that immediately upon being baptized, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit by the Father. (“This is my Son in whom I am well-pleased”).

The phrase used here, “God anointed” in reference to Jesus, is Peter once again quoting from the OT. At the end of Isaiah chapter 60, Yahweh (Jehovah) is speaking, and He continues in verse one of chapter 61. Remember, there is no chapter and verse break in the Hebrew scriptures. The One speaking in chapter 60 is the same one speaking in chapter 61. It should then read like this:

Isaiah 60:22 – 61:1

“I, the Lord, will bring it about quickly in its time. The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord anointed me To bring good news to the humble...”

This is fascinating.

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed Me,” that’s the verse Peter is referencing to Cornelius in regard to Jesus’ anointing, and notice; There is Person a) The Spirit, Person b) the Lord God, and then Person c) Me, the one anointed. Three distinct persons. The Triune God.

After Jesus was baptized and tempted by Satan, He went to the temple and read this scripture. Luke 4:16-21 says,

*He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to Him. And He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed,*

*19 To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”*

20 And He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all the people in the synagogue were intently directed at Him. 21 Now He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

- What was Jesus anointed to do or be? Remember, He is the Messiah, whom Peter calls the Lord of All.

All what? All. Peter says He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil. Think about all that Jesus did in His ministry. He had authority over nature, people, animals, and the spiritual realm. He is the King of Kings, the Lord of All!

Do you follow Him as your King? Or are you your King?

**V. 39**

*“We are witnesses of all the things that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross.”*

- This is where all the credibility comes from.

If Peter tried to tell the people that he had a special feeling inside when he thought about Jesus, that would have leveled the playing field with all other religions.

That’s what it always comes down to when people try to defend their religion: it’s some kind of subjective inner experience.

Peter and the other disciples/apostles/witnesses literally watched Jesus exercising mastery over all things – Nature, the animal kingdom, humanity, and the spiritual realm – in other words, all that He created. Do you believe this?

Peter believed, and died for it.

- Peter states another fact, something that everyone knew – This man Jesus had been executed in the most brutal and shamefully public way imaginable. He had been branded a despicable criminal.

**V. 40 – 41**

*God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He be revealed, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.*

- This is the hammer drop.

This is the crux upon which your eternal destination rests.

If the resurrection of Jesus is not true, we who believe it are utter fools, and we are wasting our time here.

If it is, NOTHING matters more. The resurrection of Jesus Christ really is an all or nothing proposition.

- Jesus appeared post-resurrection “Not to all people”

– Why not? What if He had appeared to all people?

How many narratives would there be concerning this Jesus? Mysticism and human thought would have tainted all that happened.

Jesus appeared to those who had context for His appearing. The witness is consistent.

- “To us who ate and drank with Him after He arose...”

It was a physical resurrection, not ethereal and ghostly.

Explain why. This answers questions about our own resurrection...

**V. 42**

*“And He ordered us to preach to the people, and to testify solemnly that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.”*

- This is a reference to Jesus’ directive in Acts 1:8 to the disciple just prior to His ascension back to heaven.

- “Testify solemnly” – This is serious. Don’t allow too much subjectivity to creep into your testimony – keep it focused and centered on what Jesus did and what actually, empirically happened. Of course, you can explain the effect these things have had on you, but don’t put the cart before the horse. Give the facts, and let the Holy Spirit do the rest.

- “ to be Judge of the living and the dead” – who can do this? Only God (Jesus)

(talk about roles of the Godhead – Proceeding from, accomplished through, helped by)

**V. 43**

*“All the prophets testify of Him, that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins.”*

- Peter brings it back around to his opening references to scripture. The entire body of scripture, all of God’s Word, serve as a witness to Jesus being the Name above all Names – God the Savior, God the Lord of All.

- “Whoever believes receives forgiveness of sins” – What does it mean to have your sins forgiven? Is this a forever, one time forgiveness, or a conditional contingency that can be revoked in real time?

- This is salvation – This fixes the problem.

- Belief (intellectual assent vs. deep knowing that changes you)

- When Peter says this, the sermon is OVER

**SLIDE 2**

**What can we learn from this sermon?**

**1. God shows no partiality**

**(free will vs. predestination?)**

**2. Jesus is Lord of All**

**(what does this mean?)**

**3. Stick with what we know**

 **(don’t assume anything)**

**4. The doctrine of the Trinity is clearly presented in scripture**

**(why does this matter?)**

**5. Jesus demonstrated mastery over all He created**

 **(Nature, Humanity, Spiritual)**

**6. All that Jesus did, including His death, burial and resurrection was witnessed by many**

**7. Jesus’ resurrection was physical**

 **(why does this matter?)**

**8. We are to witness to the facts surrounding Jesus**

 **(avoid subjectivity)**

**9. Jesus is God**

 **(watch out for those who say he isn’t)**

**10. Belief in Jesus is the only way to be saved**

 **(this is for all humanity)**

**SLIDE 3**

**Evangelistic Strategy:**

**Matthew 4:19**

**“Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

*“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”*

**Be in prayer and be ready to fish...**

**1. Make sure your audience is ready to hear what you have to say**

**2. Help them recognize the problem they face**

**3. Begin with what they know regarding God/Jesus**

**4. Rely on scripture/facts about Jesus (who He is, what He did)**

**5. Show them how Jesus is the answer to the problem**

**6. Let the Holy Spirit work**

 **SLIDE 4**

**Application**

**1. Treat everyone as though they are a potential brother or sister in Christ.**

**(Jesus is Lord of All)**

**2. Personally elevate Jesus’ name above all names**

**(Believe, and ask for help in believing)**

**3. Be a witness for God whenever you are prompted**

**(Relax, you are not the Holy Spirit)**

**Here is what we proclaim about the risen Lord Jesus:**

**“We are saved by Grace alone through Faith alone in Christ alone.”**

**That is the only correct answer to the problem**