

Title: For Death Could Not Hold Jesus

Passage: Acts 2:22-38

Draft Summary: Why Jesus is Lord:

- His life and ministry
- His death
- His resurrection
- His exaltation/ascension

Application:

- God is in full control of all things.
- Be bold in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What from the sermon did God impress upon you?
 - How does the truth of Jesus' resurrection provide hope in trials as well as courage in sharing our Christian faith with others?
 - What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?
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Introduction

The resurrection of Jesus

- unique compared to all the other religions of the world (all other authors are dead)

Passage:

Acts 2:22-41

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your

children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Context of Passage

Peter spoke these words boldly after Jesus' resurrection.

- Compare: 50 days earlier Peter previously denied being a follower of Jesus.

John 18:25-27

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

- What happened that changed Peter?
 - Jesus rose from the dead! He conquered death!

EXPOSITION

Overview

Why Jesus is Lord:

I. His life and ministry

II. His death

III. His resurrection

IV. His exaltation/ascension

I. Why Jesus is Lord: His life and ministry

Acts 2:22

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know

Jesus of Nazareth

- Jesus was a man

a man attested to you

- Jesus was proven. He did not merely talk.

by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know

- Jesus proved Himself by miracles
 - Brought people back from the dead (Lazarus, Jairus daughter)
 - Control nature (wind, seas during storms)
 - Heal bodies (lame walk, deaf hear, blind see)

John 3:2

This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

II. Why Jesus is Lord: His life death

Acts 2:23

this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

A. Jesus' death proved His deity because God predestined Jesus to die for our sins

- Jesus's death was not an accident but by the definite plan of God's.

John 10:18

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Why?

- Sin. Doing what God tells us not to do or not doing what He commands us to do.
- With sin, we cannot stay in the presence of a perfect God.
 - His justice demands punishment regardless of our background or status.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Ephesians 2:3

among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

God's provision: Jesus

- Jesus came to live the perfect life that we could not live.
- Jesus died on the cross to take the guilt and wrath that our sin deserved.
- His sacrifice

B. Jesus' death proved His deity because He was killed because He said He was God.

- Compare: many cults deny Jesus as God.

John 8:58-59

Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

- Jesus clearly made His claims about being God and people clearly understood what He was meaning.
(Picked up stones)

Free will vs. God's sovereignty

- We each are responsible for our sin that we chose.

III. Why Jesus is Lord: His resurrection

Acts 2:24

God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

Acts 2:32

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death,

- pangs of death = clear agony

because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

- Why?
 - Jesus is God
 - Jesus' promise of His resurrection after 3 days.

John 11:25

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,

His divine purposes

- Jesus needed to go through the resurrection as the first one

1 Corinthians 15:20

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:16-18

For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

- the fact of the resurrection is the core of Christianity.

IV. Why Jesus is Lord: His exaltation and ascension

Acts 2:32-36

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

""The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.""

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Jesus' resurrection was fact as proven by all the witnesses that saw Him.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

- None of the disciples wavered but stayed faithful to the fact of Jesus' resurrection for the rest of their lives. All died for their faith or never recanted before their death. All were willing to die for their faith.
- Compare: Watergate Scandal - 12 of the most powerful men of the United States could not keep a lie to cover the scandal. (Chuck Colson)
 - How could it be that the disciples stayed faithful? It was the truth.

APPLICATION

If a Christian, God is in full control of all things.

- The death of Christ is one of the most tragic events but God still used this to bring about the most glorious way of salvation for His people.
- Life is hard but God is still good and in control.
 - God is using suffering for greater purposes that we sometimes cannot see in this world
 - Trust Him and His purposes.

Romans 8:28

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

If a Christian, trust in God for the resurrection and for salvation.

- Jesus' resurrection provides an eternal hope that we can fully be confident.
- Find comfort in God's promises.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

If a Christian, be bold in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Follow Peter's example: stand up for your faith with grace and boldness.
- The burden of proof is really with those who do not believe. Why? The evidence is clear of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

1 Peter 3:15

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

Romans 1:20

For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

If not a Christian, how can you account for Christianity?

- All of Jesus' disciples and family lived for the truth of Jesus. Even opponents like Paul changed and spoke boldly for Jesus.
- How can account for the rise of Christianity through the centuries?
- Your continual rejection of the reason of Christianity is sin. It is a matter of the heart. You don't want to be accountable to a higher power.
 - But you don't realize you are already in bondage under Satan. You think you are free but really under Satan and sin.
- In Christ, there is redemption of your sin and being able to experience and know true eternal life through Jesus.

What to do? Repent and believe in Jesus.

Acts 2:38-39

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."