

## Preaching the Death-Conqueror

### I. Announce:

- A. Slide1,2 AL: Foundations. Unfolding Gospel.
- B. Slide3-7 Larry: Pathlight. Visual Team. STM Trips. CR. Variety Show.
- C. Slide8 Sun Night of Prayer:
- D. Slide9 FBR Movie: Next Week only. tickets online.
- E. Slide10 Valentines for Vets: Our school district (& other schools) do **Valentines** that get handed out to **Veterans**. They get sent all over the world **and** many local places. **This year they are including the faith community. So**, we have a box of them in the info booth and if you are a veteran (or family member of a veteran) please pick 1 up after the service. **TY**

### II. Slide11 Intro: Preaching the Death-Conqueror

- A. Peter now delivers **The Inaugural Sermon of the Age of Grace**.
  - 1. I remember *my 1st public sermon*, June 1989. [Elijah passing the mantle to Elisha]
    - a) I was so nervous, knees knocking, voice quivering, I might have wet myself.
  - 2. Peter, once a blue-collar fisherman, who made many mistakes, even denying the Lord 3 x's. **Now becomes a Preaching Machine!** [If he was an action figure he'd be the *Sermonator*]
  - 3. Peter takes a **match & ignites** the **1st wild fire**, **which** covers 3000 acres, **warming** them with *the Really Good News*.
- B. What caused you to **open** your heart to Christ? What **changes** has Jesus made in your life? Have you **discovered** the spiritual gifts God has given **you**? How can you use your gifts to **help bring others** into God's kingdom?

### III. Slide12a WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? (14-35) *start w/vs. 12*

- A. They had asked, *What does this mean?* vs.12 & now they were about to find out.
- B. (15) **Drunk?** - These weren't *distilled spirits*, this was *the Holy Spirit*.
- C. (17-21) **Joel Quote Overview:**
- D. Slide12b (17) **pour out my Spirit** - In Joel, God's full and final restoration of His people involves *inner transformation by His Spirit*.

E. The last days [most *misunderstood* term]

1. It means that period of time *between* Jesus' 1st coming & His 2nd Coming. (which includes the period of time in which we live today, 2000 years so far)
2. 1st he shares about the **beginning** of the outpouring (17,18). **Then** about its **ending** (Tribulation time) (19,20). [*It's dawning of this age & its sunset*]
  - a) *And, what happens in-between these 2? everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* (21)
3. Slide12c The Last days **begin** at the birth of **Christ**. It **flowers** at the birth of the **Church**. **And ends** when **Jesus comes back again**.
  - a) Slide13 Heb.1:1,2 *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.*

F. Slide14 (17) Notice the outpouring of God's Spirit **supersedes** gender (sons/daughters), **supersedes** age (old/young), & **supersedes** class (men/maidservants).

1. Actually, it seems like *God loves using youth movements i.e. sons/daughters* (He can use any age). **But typically the young.**
  - a) *Jesus' was a youth movement.* His ministry yrs.30-33. Disciples most likely *younger* than that. *Yet the paintings and pictures of the disciples were usually old men with gray hair.* I'm coming Jesus, it's just gonna take me a while.
2. Think about it, *movements, church plants, missionaries* were typically started w/the young. **Why?** They have more energy. And they don't have all the **hangups** that we have when we get older. **The older you get you're narrower, you have more hangups, you have more particularity's** about things, you get a little **weird** and **wonky**, and **reserved**, and **religious**.
  - a) Thank God for the energy and vision of the young generation.

G. So, the last days encompass: *the outpouring of the HS. Prophecy. Visions & Dreams. Signs & Wonders* (apostles & in Trib). *And Salvation to those who believe.*

1. **Keep in mind:** neither signs nor wonders, nor prophecy nor visions, nor dreams...save people.

2. Only **the gospel of Christ** is the **power** of God to salvation, for everyone who believes.

H. **Slide15** The day of the Lord - not a 24 hour day. Actually 1007 days [Trib + Mill].

1. **AKA**, a day of **judgment** (Trib) & a day of **blessing** (Mill).

2. We're not seeing **these signs** yet, **but** we will see *a preview of it* or it's beginnings.

I. Next he'll answer: *Who is the Lord & what is salvation?* from (21).

J. Note: Who is Jesus' audience? *Jewish audience*. They are expecting *the Messiah*. Peter will now explain **4 reasons why Jesus is that Messiah**.

K. **Slide16a** Peter's **4 Point Sermon** about Jesus of Nazareth (22-36)

1. **JESUS' LIFE & MINISTRY ON EARTH** (22) i.e. *mighty works, wonders, signs*

a) He now leads them on *a blood stained path*, right up to Calvary.

2. **Slide16b JESUS' CRUCIFIXION** (23) *he shows them God's best & man's worse*

a) Don't miss Peter's ability to take 2000 yrs of church fighting & place it in a nutshell here: both the *Sov of God & Responsibility of Man* in 1 tight package

(1) Yes both **murder** (human perspective) & **redemption** (divine perspective). **both/and**.

b) **God's Best** (23a) Octavius Winslow nails it on the head when he said, *Who delivered up Jesus to die? Not Judas for money, not Pilate for fear, not the Jews for envy, but the Father for Love.*

c) **Man's Worse** (23b) John Stott said, *Before we can see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us.*

(1) In summary: I did it, *my sins sent him there*. **He** did it, *His love took him there*.

d) Ok, **the Jews** already admitted **Jesus** was a *miracle worker*. Knew He died. So Peter must show that *He's alive* & where *Res* is in the OT.

3. **Slide16c JESUS' RESURRECTION** (24-32)

a) (24) Like a **bee**, when death stung Jesus Christ, it stung *itself* to death.

b) (24) Because it was not possible for Him to be held - Since He is *life* (Jn.14:6) and the only righteous one who did not deserve *the wages of sin* (Rm.6:23), Jesus could not be defeated by death.

(1) Jesus Life was like... 1 of those *birthday candles* that when you *blow it out*...it immediately *comes back to life*.

c) David obviously *wasn't* speaking of *himself*. (25, *For David says concerning him/Jesus*)

#### 4. Slide16d JESUS' EXALTATION (33-35)

a) Note Peter's sermon was: Simple. Scriptural (quoting Joel & Psalm). Christ-Centered. Convicting. Practical.

(1) It started w/*What does this mean?* & now ends w/*What do we do?*

### IV. Slide17a WHAT SHALL WE DO? (36-41) READ [what does this mean?]

A. Slide17b Ok, how exactly does one become a Follower of the Death-Conqueror?

1. We learn from this group that ***there is a time*** when ***one is not a Christian***, & ***then, one is***. 1st they *did not belong*, then they did.
2. Something happened to this group, ***they moved*** from one position to another. ***They were added to the church.*** (41,47)

B. Slide17c 3000 people underwent a complete change. Their whole *position* was revolutionized. Their thinking, their actions, their outlook were all changed.

1. **Ok, so HOW did it happen???**

- a) It *wasn't* the preaching of Peter (though it was incredible/fisherman?)
2. It was **only one thing**, & it happens in every individual that has ever been saved...It is the action of the Holy Spirit.
  - a) Slide17d They were *cut to the heart*. pierced emotionally
  3. **The Spirit of God** was using ***the Word of God & applying it to them.***

C. 3000 spiritual newborns - the early church must have looked like a *Neonatal Intensive Care Unit*. This means great responsibilities & a lot of work. [joy - heart-ache]

1. Next section we'll talk about the best way for these newborns to *get grounded* in the Lord.

D. Slide17e The Holy Spirit 1st caused them to **think** (36)

E. Let all the house of Israel **know** – They were made to **think**.

1. Some think Christianity is *brainless & thoughtless*. If anything, **false religion** is *the Opium of the masses...not Christianity*.
2. To **repent** one must **think** – because **repent** (*metanoia*) means to have a what? *A change of mind.*
3. **The Spirit** always leads people to **think**. (**Think about:** *your situation, life, death, the hereafter, think about your sin, etc.*)
4. The greatest trouble is that men/women go through life w/o thinking.
  - a) **Or**, they think for a moment, **but** find it *too painful*, so they stop & turn to whatever will *numb their pain*. Self-medicate, anything to make the pain go away.
5. **And what does the Spirit make us think about?** It **doesn't** start with your **sin**, your **happiness**, nor your **peace**. They were made to think about **Jesus!**

F. Slide18-23 A 6-FOLD RESPONSE

1. Facing. We must 1st **face** the person of Jesus Christ - *His life, death, res, exaltation.*
2. Owning. We must **own** our part - *Whom you crucified.*
3. Understanding. Then we must **understand** He is both Lord & Christ.
  - a) They **saw** they had been *fighting against* God & *rejecting* His Christ.
4. Convicting. This of course leads to our **conviction** - *cut to the heart.*
  - a) Peter had a **better aim** this time. He didn't cut off an ear, **but** instead *cut hearts.*
    - (1) **A bleeding Savior** makes **men's heart bleed**. Spurgeon
5. Responding. This leads to our heart **responding** by asking - *what shall I do?*
  - a) **What can we DO?** *pray more? give more? work more? No*, Simply follow vs.38.
  - b) It's when **you** realize, I am **apart of** the crooked generation (40).
    - (1) **crooked/perverse** – Gk.*skolios*, where we get scoliosis **an abnormal curvature of the spine**. [I'm apart of this *winding, twisted, slanted, crooked* gen.]
6. Obeying. This leads to **obedience** – *to repent & be baptized.*
  - a) Repent – He asks them, *adopt an entirely different view about Christ.*

(1) Repentance & belief are twin concepts. Mrk.1:15, Jesus' 1st teaching, *repent and believe in the gospel.*

- b) Baptism – The primary outward visible action that validates the inward decision to follow Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior.
  - (1) Just as *circumcision* served as a visible external marker of inclusion in the covenant community of Israel, so *baptism* serves as the public sign and seal of a person's solidarity with Christ and participation in the new covenant community of faith.
  - (2) Peter was saying, if you're serious about receiving remission of your sins, you should prove it by *being baptized immediately.*
    - (a) And what a long baptism it must have been. [by southern steps]

G. Slide24a (39) To all who are afar off – That's us this morning. (or even *in distance from God*, far off)

1. Are you ready to face the person of Jesus, who loves you to death? Ready to own your part? Do you understand He is both Lord & Christ. Do you feel a cutting/conviction of heart? Will you respond this morning, w/what shall I do? Will you obey His command to repent & believe & be baptized soon?
2. God does not overlook or ignore sin, but graciously frees you from sins condemnation and power. Everyone who calls upon the name of Jesus shall be saved.
3. Jesus is calling you this morning, not just to see if you have the right Information, but it's a call to Transformation.
  - a) A calling to a changed life, with His new Presence & His new Power.
  - b) Slide24b A calling to become a follower of the death-conqueror.