

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*.