

You Killed the Author of Life - Acts 3:11-26

Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Happy Easter, and the blessings of Christ to you on this glorious day. For over 2,000 years the people of Jesus have been gathering and making the same offer to all people, the proclamation of the risen Christ as the hope for all people and all nations. In most churches today a pastor will stand in front of a gathered church and proclaim the Gospel message that God sent Jesus, the Righteous One, the Author of Life, the Prophet like Moses, the Servant of the Lord into the world. This Jesus was crucified by an angry mob of people who delivered the Son of God over the Roman ruler Pilate. Pilate saw no fault in him and sought to release him, but the present crowd, being led by their rulers became more vocal and more animated, demanding the crucifixion of Jesus. Pilate even tried to get them to back off by giving in to one of their customs, pardoning a prisoner awaiting death, so he went and choose a terrorist and murderer named Barabbas believing there was no way the crowd would choose to have this man released in order to crucify Jesus. But to his astonishment the crowd chose the release of the murdered and the crucifixion of Jesus. They “Killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead.” Yep, that is the message we preach each Easter, and to be honest, every Sunday.

Our story in Acts begins with Peter and John coming into the Temple at the hour of prayer (about 3 PM) and subsequently healing a man who had been lame from birth. This man was in the Temple every day to beg for alms, so he was well known by the crowd who frequented the holy place regularly. But on this day he is walking, leaping, and singing praises at the top of his voice. Of course this created a commotion. Picture it, the man is clinging in thankfulness to Peter and John, while this crowd, probably in the thousands begins running toward them to figure out what happened. They see the man they had past over and over again, and maybe even at times thrown a few buck into his hat while entering the Temple. Now he is on his feet praising the Lord. What a moment. And for Peter and John it was a great opportunity to boost their reputation and fame. Yet, in this moment Peter does exactly what we do every Easter, he deflects the glory from himself, gives credit to Jesus for the healing of the man, and then preaches the Gospel of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the hope for these people. So lets take a quick look at this Gospel, a story with four key themes.

God

The Gospel begins with God. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift and the goal of the Gospel. Peter does not speak of a generic God, just any deity you choose to worship. The God who created everything, and who rules the universe is the God who revealed Himself in history to the Jewish people and in the Bible. He is the eternal God of their fathers, and the true and living God who gives life and redeems.

Me

Peter holds no punches. This sermon takes place no more than a couple months after the events of the first Good Friday and Easter, so the crowd is full of people who were there, in the crowd on the day of Jesus’ death. There were people in the crowd who mocked Jesus as he was being scourged, who delivered Jesus to Pilate and then shouted “Crucify Him!” when Pilate found Jesus “not guilty”. These people also received Barabbas and demanded the cruel execution of Jesus, the author of life. Their sin leaves them guilty and deserving the wrath of God. Now, we can claim that we weren’t there. Yet, our sin is still the cause of Jesus’ death. We too are guilty, idolaters who will oppose Jesus as the point where He demands our all and calls us to leave the things we have put in the place of God. So in a real way, we bear the same guilt, because if we were there we would do the same thing. We prove it every day. We need a redeemer to deliver us from our mess.

Christ

Peter masterfully weaves the identity of Christ and the ministry of Christ into his sermon. Christ was sent by God. He is the servant of the Lord, a reference to the promised hope of Israel from the book of Isaiah. This servant would be both the sovereign King but also the suffering servant

(pictured in Isaiah 53) of God. He is the author of life, the creator of all things. And He is the Prophet like Moses, who is the very Word of God. This Jesus lived the life we should have lived, and then died the death we should have died, in our place, for our sin. Yet, God raised Him from the dead, vindicating Jesus, and defeating death, hell, and the grave, winning the victory we could not win.

Response

So the offer Peter makes to these people is the same offer being made in every Gospel preaching church on planet earth today and for 2,000 years. There is a right response to this message. If we will repent and turn to Christ, being converted from any effort to save ourselves and trusting in Jesus Christ alone, each of us can be rescued by Christ. The promise is that our sins will be blotted out. Think about this, Peter literally told the people who killed Jesus that their sins could be blotted out. And the promise is that times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord. This is what we all need, forgiveness and renewal from the presence of God Himself. For many, Easter is the reminder of what Jesus did. But for some, we pray, this Easter will be the time they hear this message and believe for the first time.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
2 Samuel 6	2 Samuel 7	2 Samuel 8	2 Samuel 9	2 Samuel 10	2 Samuel 11	2 Samuel 12

Reading from this past week: 3:11-26

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Acts 4:1-22

Family Worship

Song - *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

<https://youtu.be/BIYLXJ1Qxa8>

Gospel Project

Unit: Into the Land

Story: God's miracles prove who He is.

Big Picture Question: What is a miracle?

Answer: A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

Scripture: Mark 16

New City Catechism

Question #16: What is sin?

Answer: Sin is rejecting or ignoring God in the world he created, not being or doing what he requires in his law.

Verse: 1 John 3:4

Scripture

Acts 3:11-26

- If something instantly made you known and famous, what message would you share with the crowd around you? What message did Peter share?
- What does Peter claim caused the healing of the lame man?
- What hope does this sermon offer the people who were present on that day, but were also part of the crowd who shouted for Jesus to be crucified? Why is this the hope we offer every Easter and every Sunday?
- What is the right response to the Gospel?

Prayer

*Pray that we would find great joy in the message of Easter, that even though our sin led to the death of the Author of Life, God raised Him from the dead.

*Pray for our Elders and Staff attending the Together for the Gospel conference in Louisville this week.