

# 7 Aspects of Peter's Second Sermon

1. Last week I read about the kingdom of God in action...how the Christian believer has the ability to impact others...just by giving them a hand up
  - a. I enjoyed looking at the what the scripture told us about the event...and what scripture did not tell us about this event
  - b. Especially how silent the scripture was...of what motivated Peter to be drawn to the beggar...or what caused Peter to ask for healing
  - c. In fact scripture only focused on how human interaction of love and respect...allowed God to free this lame man from his bondage
  - d. But there was a dual purpose for what took place...
  - e. This miracle not only changed the life of the beggar
  - f. But this now...changed beggar...caused the people to be curious...which allows Peter to preach Christ
  - g. This morning we are going to look at 7 aspects of Peter's second sermon
2. Acts 3:12 Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness?"
3. Slide...The 1<sup>st</sup> thing Peter's second sermon involves is opportunity
  - a. I remember before I was saved...I didn't want to hear anything about Jesus
  - b. It wasn't until I came to the end of myself...that I finally wanted to listen...about the things of Jesus

- c. It is the same for evangelism...the best evangelism...happens when you take advantage of opportunities
  - d. How many people have come to Christ by just being invited to a church... or a Billy Gram crusade...or a heathen like I was...when we are hurting
  - e. So the question is...are we ready...or are we prepared...when the opportunity comes to share the gospel
  - f. The Bible doesn't tell us...how many days Peter and John...went to the temple to pray...without preaching Jesus...we don't know
  - g. But on this day...there was an open door...and an opportunity...and Peter was prepared...and starts by asking 2 questions
  - h. First...why are you surprised...and secondly...why do they assume it was Peter and John who did this miracle
  - i. When it was Jesus...who has been doing these kind of miracles for 3 years
  - j. What Peter does...is he redirects their attention...back to Jesus...Jesus did this miracle...because He is still alive...and Peter claims no credit...
4. Acts 3:13-15, 13 For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. 14 You rejected this holy, righteous One and instead demanded the release of a murderer. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!
5. Slide...The second thing Peter's second sermon involves truth

- a. I want you to notice Peter established that there is a God...the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob...the same God the Jews worship
- b. Then Peter says...the God they worship...did this miracle...through...His servant Jesus
- c. Why does Peter call Jesus...the servant of God...
- d. Because...Peter is claiming that Jesus is the very servant Moses prophesied would come...the Servant...and or...the Messiah
- e. Then Peter says...that Jesus...the Messiah...would receive glory...for this miracle...or in other words...Jesus is equal to God
- f. And oh...by the way...this servant of God...the Messiah...is the one you rejected...handed over to Pilate to be killed
- g. Pilate knew Jesus was God in the flesh...and wanted to free Him...but you wouldn't let Pilate
- h. In fact you chose a well known murderer...a true liar...over your Messiah
- i. What you are guilty of...is killing the author of life...but God raised him from the dead...and we are witnesses of this fact!
- j. Have you ever noticed how when someone repeats the truth of our sin...back to us...in a non-sugar coated manor...it can seem to be more real
- k. However speaking the truth about our sin...is important...because it opens our hearts...for us to see our sin...for what it is
- l. Then we realize that we need a Savior...and so the truth will set us free...and a pierced humble broken heart...will allow us to receive

6. Acts 3:16 "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.
7. Slide...The 3<sup>rd</sup> thing in Peter's second sermon involves faith
  - a. It was faith...here is the key...in the name of Jesus...that healed this man...to which they are witnesses to
  - b. Remember...we are never told why this miracle happens...only that it did happen...through faith in Jesus
  - c. Peter did not want any of the glory...or the attention for himself...but rather put the attention on Jesus...and what faith in Jesus accomplished
  - d. Our own testimony...is not about us...but rather what having faith in Jesus did in our lives
8. Acts 3:17-18' 17 "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. 18 But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things.
9. Slide...The 4<sup>th</sup> thing in Peter's second sermon involves hope
  - a. Hope is such a powerful emotion
  - b. Anyone who preaches the gospel...needs to make sure they also include hope...yes we are sinners...deserving hell...but there is hope in Jesus
  - c. There is nothing you can change about your past...but you sure can change your present...and future...if you want to...how
10. Acts 3:19-21, 19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. 20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the

Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. 21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.

11. Slide...The 5<sup>th</sup> thing in Peter's second sermon involves a pardon
  - a. What Peter is referring to...is the new covenant...promised in the book of Jerimiah...which we will read in a few minutes
  - b. Faith in Jesus...and His shed blood sacrifice...involves substitutional payment to the penalty of sin
  - c. Which results in the forgiveness of sin and the restoration of life
  - d. In a relationship with Jesus...there will be grace...mercy...forgiveness...and restoration...redemption...because it was promised by the prophets
  - e. Peter is referring back to...the scriptures they believe...and how Jesus is the fulfilment of the words of the prophets
12. Acts 3:22-24, 22 Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people. Listen carefully to everything he tells you.'  
23 Then Moses said, 'Anyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from God's people.'  
24 "Starting with Samuel, every prophet spoke about what is happening today.
13. Slide...The 6<sup>th</sup> thing in Peter's second sermon involves a warning
  - a. Your actions are what reveal your faith...do you believe in faith...that Jesus is the Prophet Moses spoke about
  - b. Notice the word Prophet is capitalized...which means the Prophet being referred to...is God or Jesus

- c. There are only going to be 2 groups in this warning...those who believe the servant...or Jesus in faith ...will escape judgement
- d. And those who don't believe this Prophet...or Servant...or Jesus...will face judgement
- e. Let's look at these prophecies a little closer...prophecies will connect the old and new testaments

14. Deut 18:15-20, 15 Moses continued, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. 16 For this is what you yourselves requested of the Lord your God when you were assembled at Mount Sinai. You said, 'Don't let us hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore or see this blazing fire, for we will die.' 17 "Then the Lord said to me, 'What they have said is right. 18 I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him. 19 I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf.

- a. Jesus said I don't say anything...unless I hear the Father speak it
- b. Jesus also said...the only way to the Father...is through faith in Christ
- c. **When** this event happened on mount Sinai...
- d. The mountain was on fire...thunder and lightening was happening...and a trumpets were blasting
- e. While all this was happening...Moses ascended...a prophecy of the rapture
- f. And a prophecy of Christ who is resurrected...and now sits at the right hand of the Father...interceding...or mediating for us

- g. Peter's point is...Jesus is the Prophet...that Moses was telling them about
- h. At mount Sinai...the Israelites were afraid they would die...if they came in contact with a holy God...and they were right...they would die
- i. Which is the point of Christianity...where you die to self...and are born again...a second time...as a new creation in Christ
- j. So you can have a relationship with a holy God...but it involves dying...so that you can be born again of Spirit
- k. The new testament comes alive...when you have the back ground of the old testament
- l. And then you connect everything together with the prophets

15. 2 Sam 7:8-16, 8 "Now go and say to my servant David, 'This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies has declared: I took you from tending sheep in the pasture and selected you to be the leader of my people Israel. 9 I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have destroyed all your enemies before your eyes. Now I will make your name as famous as anyone who has ever lived on the earth! 10 And I will provide a homeland for my people Israel, planting them in a secure place where they will never be disturbed. Evil nations won't oppress them as they've done in the past, 11 starting from the time I appointed judges to rule my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. "'Furthermore, the Lord declares that he will make a house for you—a dynasty of kings! 12 For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make His kingdom strong. 13 He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will secure his

royal throne forever. 14 I will be his Father, and He will be my Son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do. 15 But my favor will not be taken from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from your sight. 16 Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever."

- a. Verse 14 said...the Lord speaking...I will be His Father and He will be My Son...Jesus being the Son of God...whose kingdom will not be removed
- b. Jesus said...you can destroy this temple...and I will rebuild it in 3 days
- c. Jesus is the one who...now builds the temple in our hearts...that will never be destroyed
- d. Let's look at the prophesied new covenant

16. Jer 31:31-34, 31 "The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. 32 This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord. 33 "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day," says the Lord. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."



- a. Jesus writes these instructions...in our hearts...where Jesus now lives
- b. Those who believe...Jesus is the Lord...will be accepted by Jesus
- c. From the least to the greatest...from Peter...to the crippled beggar will know the Lord
- d. The only hope for man is...the Lord...or Jesus will forgive their wickedness...and remember their sins no more
- e. I have wondered many times...how did the Jews miss Jesus as the Messiah...well they didn't
- f. As we turn to the book of John...what we are going to read...is right after Lazarus was called out of the cave after being dead for 4 days

17. John 11:45-48, 45 Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen. 46 But some went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 Then the leading priests and Pharisees called the high council together. "What are we going to do?" they asked each other. "This man certainly performs many miraculous signs. 48 If we allow him to go on like this, soon everyone will believe in him. Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation."

- a. They knew who Jesus was...but they were afraid to lose the worldly power that they had

18. John 11:49-54, 49 Caiaphas, who was high priest at that time, said, "You don't know what you're talking about! 50 You don't realize that it's better for you that one man should die for the people than for the whole nation to be destroyed." 51 He did not say this on his own; as high priest at that time he was led to prophesy

that Jesus would die for the entire nation. 52 And not only for that nation, but to bring together and unite all the children of God scattered around the world. 53 So from that time on, the Jewish leaders began to plot Jesus' death. 54 As a result, Jesus stopped his public ministry among the people and left Jerusalem. He went to a place near the wilderness, to the village of Ephraim, and stayed there with his disciples.

- a. They knew who Jesus was...they counted the cost of accepting Jesus as the Messiah...and chose to kill Jesus instead of accepting Him
- b. This is a word picture of the rejection of Jesus
- c. They knew who Jesus was...but wouldn't believe
- d. I better back up my point again...as to the religious people knowing who Jesus was

19. John 12:37-43, 37 But despite all the miraculous signs Jesus had done, most of the people still did not believe in him. 38 This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted: "Lord, who has believed our message? To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?" 39 But the people couldn't believe, for as Isaiah also said, 40 "The Lord has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts—so that their eyes cannot see, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and have me heal them." 41 Isaiah was referring to Jesus when he said this, because he saw the future and spoke of the Messiah's glory. 42 Many people did believe in him, however, including some of the Jewish leaders. But they wouldn't admit it for fear that the Pharisees would expel them from the synagogue. 43 For they loved human praise more than the praise of God.

- a. The religious leaders knew who Jesus was...but wouldn't soften their hearts...they refused to accept Jesus
- b. Now some people will have a problem when it says...the Lord blinded their eyes...and hardened their hearts
- c. Let's not think that they were men of soft kind hearts...that the Lord suddenly hardened...because that's not the case
- d. Verse 37 tells us...they saw the truth...but still refused to believe
- e. There is a problem with knowing the truth and doing the truth
- f. This is the very attack on the world right now...people know the truth...right from wrong...and yet are willing to go with the flow
- g. When it says...that the Lord blinded them...or hardened their hearts...what it means is the Lord came into agreement with their blind eyes and hearts
- h. They knew who Jesus was...but rather than come into agreement with Jesus
- i. They were worried about their stuff...their position...more than the Lord
- j. So God came into agreement with them...and harden their hearts further...which makes life harder...and harder...until we break
- k. Which then...creates an opportunity for the truth to penetrate the hard heart
- l. The healing of a beggar...a changed life...who is celebrating...being free from the weights of the world...is such an opportunity
- m. I have experienced this hardening and softening...it was the hardening that caused me to come to the end of myself

- n. Which in turn created the opportunity to see my sin...to see who Jesus is...then repent...and Jesus accepted me...and pardoned my sin
- o. The choice is faith...or not faith...faith commands a blessing...which is Peter's 7<sup>th</sup> thing included in his second sermon

20. Acts 3:25 You are the children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants all the families on earth will be blessed.' 26 When God raised up his servant, Jesus, he sent him first to you people of Israel, to bless you by turning each of you back from your sinful ways."

21. Slide...The 7<sup>th</sup> thing in Peter's second sermon involves a blessing

- a. I love to bring the things of God into a parent child relationship
- b. Most every parent wants to bless their children with gifts or blessings
- c. God is the same way...He wants to bless us...but the giving of the blessing depends on us
- d. For example...you just bought a bicycle for your 8 year old child
- e. And you are very excited to give it to them...so you can witness them enjoy it...which bring you joy
- f. You get home...and you can't wait to give the gift...and every thing you asked them to do...wasn't done
- g. They didn't do anything you asked them to do while you were gone
- h. In this situation...can you give them the gift...no
- i. I believe it is the same way...with God
- j. God has many gifts for you...and all you need to do is your part

- k. There are so many blessing...that God wants to give us...that we don't receive...because of a lack of faith
- l. God doesn't want to hold back from us...but will...if we don't do our part