

## Sermons on Jesus:

# Peter on Jesus

Men of Israel, listen to these words; Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified (Acts 2:22-24, 36).

**H**ISTORY says that “Jesus loved John and Peter loved Jesus.” Maybe, maybe not! But no one knew Jesus better than Peter. He involved himself with Jesus. We need to study and preach the gospel sermons recorded in Acts. We, possibly, only study Acts 2. The sermons in Acts had the same focus—Jesus. The sermons in Acts outlined the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Preach Christ and you get the church. You do not preach the church to get Christ. Plant MMLJ to get Acts. You do not plant Acts to get Acts. What does Peter say about Jesus?

### I. JESUS WAS A MAN

The Bible says, “Jesus of Nazareth, a man” (Acts 2:22). The gospel is not philosophy and ethics. The gospel is the historical reality that God out there came down here as a man. The

Donald Baillie asked, “Why is it such maladies as ‘nervous breakdowns’ are so common in our modern world? Is it entirely unconnected with the fact that there are now so many serious-minded people who have no belief in God, who are trying to have morality without religion? Because they have not God, they have no saving secret for dealing with their moral failures. Their memory of failure, instead of becoming a wholesome sense of sin which can lead to forgiveness, is unconsciously repressed until it becomes a morbid complex, with paralyzing effects.” It was also Dr. Baillie who quoted the testimony of an Edinburgh psychiatrist: “I always send my patients to hear Dr. X preach, because he preaches the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins.”

angel told Joseph, the carpenter, to take Mary for his wife. The angel explained that the child was of the Holy Spirit. He told Joseph to call the baby “Jesus,” for He would save His people from their sins. Skeptics stumble over the divinity of Christ, and brethren stumble over the humanity. In John 1 the Bible says that the Word became flesh. Jesus was an unknown from nowhere with no earthen status.

Christianity is Christ, yet “godness” humanizes. The gospel is not only God becoming man but people becoming human. Against such there is no law. The gospel makes people human—the most human. Jesus not only revealed God, but He also was the fullness of humanity! Godness and humanity go together.

### II. JESUS WAS GOD

Jesus while on earth was approved by God. Acts 2 titles His miracles as “many infallible proofs.” Among contemporaries in Acts 2, no one denied the miracle of the resurrection. Matthew 1 says that God is with us (Immanuel). John, like Peter, also knew Jesus well. He recorded, “We saw Him with our eyes and handled Him with our hands” (1 John 1:1-4).

### III. JESUS AND PROVIDENCE

Our text says the cross is no accident—it is the determinate will of God. This is why pre-millennialism is so wrong. This heresy maintains that the Jewish rejection of Christ surprised God—that the cross, the church, and our present age is a substitution. God cannot be God and be surprised! God cannot make a

mistake. This idea reduces the church to an “afterthought.” Galatians 4 and Ephesians maintain that Christ and His church are the eternal wisdom of God. Peter maintains that the church is neither fate nor accident: it is totally of God! God works upon the stage of human history. This means that equally the church is under the providence of God. What an amazing thought! If only the church could grasp the eternal providence of God. Provi-

dence cannot be explained, but it must be trusted. Believe it!

### **CONCLUSION**

Because of these three points, Jesus is proclaimed and heralded as “Lord.” Jesus is the risen Lord. Because of this obvious conclusion the listeners “were cut in their hearts.” Later in Acts 2, those who gladly received the Word were baptized.

—Charles B. Hodge, Jr.

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