

Jesus is Both Lord and Christ



Acts 2: 23-41

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For the last three years, I have been pursuing a doctorate of ministry degree at Southeastern Seminary. One of the last requirements, like a capstone, is to pick a project that you want to do in your local church. There is a lot of research and a lot of writing, about 150 pages, and then upon completion of the project, you can teach the topic of that research. I chose to teach a group of men at Hardin Baptist Church how to do expository preaching. So, I have been dealing with preaching and a lot of research. Starting this March, I began with two groups of guys meeting on weekends for two days. I had the pleasure and joy of teaching them how to do expository preaching, how to take a text and work through exegesis, how to bring out the main points of the text and turn it into the main point

of the sermon, and how to show that Jesus is the hero. Then, we looked at how to apply this to an audience and how to call the audience to respond. After teaching that, all the guys had the joy of giving a twelve minute sermon in a living room in front of their peers and me. It was a little awkward, but they did it, and then we gave feedback on how they did, what they might have missed. The next week they went into Sunday school classes throughout Hardin Baptist Church and preached their expository sermon. Some of you got to hear those sermons. They passed out sermon evaluation forms which some of you filled out, and you would say they did this well, missed this, did this great. I got those evaluation forms, read through them, and gave feedback to the guys on how they did.

Can you imagine in this scenario if one of my students came to me and I asked, "How do you think the sermon went?" and he said, "I think it went pretty well. Three thousand people came to Christ!" That would be a great sermon, right? That would have been A+ material. You would have to say he nailed it! Well, we are about to read a sermon in Scripture where at the end 3000 people came to Christ. This is Peter's sermon at Pentecost. I would say that if he were one of my students, I would have given him an A+. He did everything right. He took a text of Scripture, drove at a main point, made Jesus a hero, applied it to his audience, and called for a response. He laid it out perfectly. It wasn't just Peter's good words that caused this response; it was Peter banking on the Word of God, and the Spirit taking the Word, and applying it to listeners that drove the response. We pray that this morning we will hear that same sermon and the Spirit will take this text and move in our hearts, calling us to respond.

We are in Acts chapter 2. I want to read Peter's MPS (the main point of the sermon). That is what all my guys had to dig and find. We will read verse 36, the main point of Peter's sermon. This is what Peter wants to drive home to us.

Scripture

"Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified."

The people are where Peter is because it is Pentecost. They are at a festival that God told them to attend. So they are at the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing as God expected them to do. We find ourselves in a similar situation. We are where God wants us to be. We are at church on Sunday morning. We are at the right place at the right time, seemingly doing the right things. At the end of Peter's sermon, he is going to say all of you need to repent. We will see that they were trusting in themselves, not in Christ. Perhaps, some of you here this morning are at the right place at the right time, but in reality, you need to repent because Jesus is not both your Lord and your Savior. We are going to see this sermon that Peter gives.

Jesus of Nazareth is a Big Deal

We will start about mid-sermon, starting back in Acts 2:22, "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with might works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know..."

Peter is saying, *Jesus of Nazareth, He wasn't just from Nazareth. He is a much bigger deal, and I am going to show you just how big of a deal He is. But, you should have known it! You should have understood who Jesus is because God made Him very plain to you.* Peter is talking to a group of people who had witnessed Jesus walking around, and Peter told them that God showed Jesus to them through mighty works, wonders, and signs. Think about all that Jesus did to show people who He truly is. He went to a wedding where He changed water into wine. He encountered a man who was paralyzed and made him walk again. He told people their sins were forgiven. He knew people's hearts and minds, and He told them about their whole lives. He cast out demons. He caused blind men to see. He walked on water. He took a little boy's lunch box and made it feed 5000 men, plus the women and children. Jesus raised someone from the dead. He went to the graveside and said, "Get up," and the man got up out of his grave. What Peter is saying is you should have known that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. They had missed it. Maybe for you who are here, you have been around Jesus for a long time. You have been through Vacation Bible School. You attend Sunday school, you are in a small group, you are in a

discipleship group, and you attend church services regularly. You have been around Jesus for a long time. So were they. But they missed it. They didn't get who Jesus really is. Maybe for the first time this morning, God will reveal to you who Jesus is, both Lord and Christ.

God's Definite Plan

Look with me at verse 23. We will see both the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man, and how the two are not at odds with each other but are in harmony. It says, "...this Jesus delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men."

- **The Sovereignty of God**

Peter showed us two things. This Jesus was delivered up according to a definite plan and foreknowledge of God. Peter is reminding us that the cross was no accident. The cross didn't just happen. The cross was God's plan. God planned the cross before the foundation of the world, before He created Adam and Eve, He knew that Adam and Eve would walk away from Him, that we would walk away from Him, and it would take the cross of Christ to have us come back to Him. He knew at the start of creation that it would take a cross to bring about redemption. At the cross, His glory would be displayed. His love would be displayed fully for us to see how much God loves us and how glorious He is. We can see that through the cross of Christ.

The cross is not plan B. God did not start out saying *I think they are going to be really good and always going to obey*, and then when we messed up, God is like *Oh no! What am I going to do? I guess I will give them a law and a sacrifice and maybe that will work...but oh man, that didn't work either! What are they doing? Hey Son, do you have any ideas? How about a cross?* That was not the conversation in Heaven. God planned the cross. God knew the cross would be how you and I would come back to Him, to the glory of Christ. So, we see the sovereignty of God. This was God's plan.

- **The Responsibility of Man**

We also see the responsibility of man. Peter said you killed him through the hands of lawless men... *This is your responsibility! You are at fault here. You did an evil thing crucifying Jesus, who is both Lord and Christ. You did an evil thing, but your evil thing was used in the big plan of God.*

This reminds me of the story of Joseph in Genesis. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. Joseph ended up in Egypt as a ruler. He ended up saving his brothers and all of Israel. At the end of the book of Genesis in chapter 50, his brothers are sorry for their actions, and Joseph said what you meant for evil, God meant for good. Joseph's brothers did an evil thing but their evil thing was under the perfect plan of God. God used their evil and meant it for good.

Here in Acts, we have men doing an evil thing. They are doing exactly what they want to do. They want to kill Jesus. They can't stand Jesus. They are acting in their own will. They are doing what they most want to do, and that is kill Jesus. But through their wicked act of killing Jesus, God kills death through Jesus. God used their plan to kill for His plan to save. This shows the beautiful sovereignty of God and also the responsibility of man. Peter tells them they are to blame; they killed him. But here is the bigger story. It was God's plan. God did this for a reason. He wants to save you and he wants to save me. It is the glory of the cross.

Notice what verse 24 tells us about this sacrifice, "God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it." How did their wickedness fulfill the plan of God? It is because God's plan was always death plus resurrection. By the resurrection, God would kill death. He would remove the pangs of death. The pain of death would be no more because God unloosed it, did away with it. Through the resurrection of Christ, God kills our death.

The Hero of Psalm 16

Peter is going to show these people that the death and resurrection of Christ actually fits into the bigger story of the Bible. It wasn't just an event that happened. It was a preplanned event that the Old Testament pointed

forward to. He will go back and exegete a passage of Scripture and show how Jesus is the hero of this Psalm. Verse 25 says, "For David says concerning Him..." David, from the Old Testament, is talking about Jesus, and Peter quotes a part of Psalm 16 for us in verses 26–28, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

The Psalms were the Israelite people's hymnal book. They would have gathered together and would sing Psalm 16. So when Peter quoted this, it would be like quoting "Amazing Grace" to us. We all just know it, and we would all probably hum or sing along. So Peter quotes this song that David sang to God, and they are all probably humming along with it, as they all knew this song.

So, what does David say in this song? *I have my eyes on the Lord, and because my eyes are on the Lord, He is at my right hand. That means I shall not be shaken. I am steady. I am not moveable. Nothing is going to happen to me. In fact, my heart is full of joy. In His very presence, there are pleasures forevermore.* David was rejoicing in the goodness and presence of God.

In Psalm 16:9, David said, "...my flesh shall dwell secure." If you go to verse 1 of Psalm 16, David said, "Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge." Things were not going well for David. He was crying out to God here. He was in the midst of death. But then, he says my flesh will dwell secure. I will dwell in hope. Why is that? David tells us he can dwell in hope, "For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption." David said *I have joy because I know, God, you will never abandon me. You will never abandon my soul in Hades. You won't abandon me in the grave because you will not abandon your Holy One in the grave!* David was trusting that God would not abandon him in the tomb.

- **David is not the Hero**

But Peter is going to say there is a problem with this. It seemed that did not come true. They have all sung this song, but they were singing a lyric that did not come true. God abandoned David in the tomb. David was actually wrong when he sang this. It didn't work out. It didn't come true. How does Peter say this? Acts 2:29 says, "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day." You see the repetition of he died, he is buried, and he is in the tomb. In other words, David claimed that God would never abandon his soul in a grave or allow his body to see decay. Peter says *Hold on...we know where David's grave is. We can go and if we dig into his grave, we will find a pile of bones. This didn't work out. God, obviously, did not keep His promise. David thought that God would not abandon him, but it seems like God did.* Do you see the problem that Peter is trying to point out? They had been singing a song that seems like it didn't actually work out.

So what does Peter do? Peter will show in Acts how David is not the hero in Psalm 16, but Jesus is. Notice what Peter does with this psalm next in verses 30–31, "Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on the throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption."

Peter said that David was not talking about himself in Psalm 16; he was talking about the Messiah. He was talking about the one to come. He was talking about his son because David remembered the promises of God in 2 Samuel chapter 7. God had promised David that he would have a son who would reign forever. Forever kings can't die. They have to live forever. David, in the midst of death, pain, and sorrow, has joy because his soul and his body would not be abandoned in the grave. Why is that? It is because David is linking himself to the Messiah. He is not saying that God would let *his* body rot; he is saying that God would not let the Messiah's body rot. He is saying *I am connected to the Messiah, I am in the Messiah; therefore, you will not let my body rot. What happens to the Messiah will*

also happen to me. By faith, David linked himself to the Holy One. Whatever happens to the Holy One, the same will happen to him.

- **Jesus is the Hero**

So, who does Peter say David was talking about? He was talking about Christ, and because God did not abandon Jesus in the grave, David believed God would not be abandon him in the grave. David's bones might be in the tomb, but David is with the Lord. One day, his bones will jump out of the tomb, just like our bones will jump from our graves and we will be with the Lord forever. Why? Because of Christ, because of the empty tomb, because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter is saying that in David's psalm Jesus is actually the hero. The psalm was really about Christ. David was linking himself to Jesus and so should we. When we link ourselves to Jesus, what is true of Him will be true of us. His resurrection will become our resurrection.

Peter continues to hone in the point that Jesus is indeed the Christ in verses 32–33, "This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing."

David said the coming one would sit on the throne. The coming one will live forever, so even though I will die, I will connect myself with Him. That forever son of David is Jesus, and this is what Peter is trying to get these people to see. Jesus is the Christ. The term, Christ, has a lot of Old Testament baggage. It has to do with the Anointed One, the King, the Savior, the one who will come and save us. All these things are implied in that term, Christ. It means Savior. He came to be our King and Savior, and Peter says they missed it... *You killed the Savior, but through His death, He rose again to save you.* That is the glory of the gospel!

Both Savior and Lord

Not only is Jesus the Christ, He is also Lord. Peter continues in verses 34–35, "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, "'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your

footstool.” Peter is quoting Psalm 110. The question is who was David talking about? David was saying, **Yahweh** is saying to my **Adonai**, my Lord. God is saying to David’s Lord to come and sit at His right hand and you will rule and reign forevermore. So, who is that?

Now, Jesus would use this Psalm in Luke 20 to ask those who questioned Him who He was talking about. Of course, their response is David’s son. David is talking about his son, the son that would reign at God’s right hand. Of course, Jesus said that is weird because David calls him Lord, and you do not normally call your kids Lord.

If you have small kids and they come demanding something from you that you told them not to do, do you respond by saying, “I’m sorry, Lord, whatever you want? You are the boss. You are in control. Yes, Lord, I bow to whatever you want.” No! You don’t call your kids Lord! You would like for them to call you Lord. That would be nice. Maybe we should change it to where kids called their parents Lord. That would be awesome!

A father does not call his son Lord, but David called *this* son Lord. What does that mean? He isn’t just from Nazareth. There is something more. He is not just the son of David. He is also the Son of God. Yes, he is the son after David, but He is God’s own Son. David looks at his future son, the one who will hold the kingship forever, and says you are not just my son; you are my Lord, my God.

Peter is saying Jesus is not just the Christ; He is also the Lord. He is the one seated at the right hand of God, ruling and reigning. We don’t have to wait for Jesus’ reign on David’s throne. Right now He is on David’s throne ruling and reigning through His people, the Church. We don’t have to wait for it. It is right now. The gospel can go forth unhindered because Christ is on the throne of David right now. He is ruling and reigning from Heaven. David did not go up there; Jesus did. Jesus is the better son. He is the perfect Son, the Son of God who is the son of David. Peter was saying that Jesus is not just from Nazareth. No, he is the Christ and the Lord.

This brings us to Peter’s main point of the sermon. Verse 36, “Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus [that boy from Nazareth] whom you crucified.”

Peter has used these Old Testament text to show that David pointed us to Christ all along. He pointed to Jesus as the Christ who came to save, but He is also the Lord who rules over us. That is who Jesus is. He is both Lord and Christ.

I want to ask this question before we go to their response. Is Jesus your Christ and Lord? The whole point of the sermon is to bring this to bear, that Jesus is both Christ and Lord. What does Christ mean? He is the king who came to save you. So, we can say it like this. Is Jesus your Savior? Start there. Is Jesus your Savior? Have you come to Him for forgiveness of your sins? Have you completely trusted in Him, not trusting in yourself but trusting in Jesus? Can you say "Jesus, I am trusting that your finished work on the cross, that when you died and rose again God counted that as my death and my resurrection. I am trusting you, and now your righteousness has been put into my account, so I am forgiven and righteous before God." Is Jesus your Savior? Has Jesus saved you from your sins because He is the Christ? He is the Savior. He came to save you from your sins.

Is Jesus also your Lord? What does that mean? Lord means that He is God. He rules over you. You come under His authority. You actually follow Him with your life. You obey what He says. You worship Him. Your life used to be about you, your desires, what you wanted. But then you saw Jesus, who is both Savior and Lord, and you turned and asked Jesus to save you and now you want to follow Him. Since then, all your footsteps have been under His good Word. You are pursuing Him. You are living your life for His purpose and His glory, not your own. Is Jesus your Lord? Can you honestly say that Jesus rules over you and you gladly follow Him? You love following Him. You love worshipping Him. Or, are you following your own heart and desires? The truth is either you are lord or Jesus is Lord. It can't be both. Is Jesus your Lord?

Here is the reality. Peter says Jesus is both these things. He is Savior and Lord. You can't claim that Jesus is your Savior, but decide follow your own will for the rest of your life. It doesn't work like that. If you don't have Jesus as Lord, you don't have Him as Savior. Both of those are together. He is God who saved you. When He saves you, you are now made for God. You will want to worship and love God. You will want to follow God. He

doesn't save you for yourself; He saves you for Him. If you haven't gotten Him out of the deal, you are not truly saved. You come to Christ as both Savior and Lord because God saved you from your sins and you are now following and trusting in Him.

The People's Response

See, the people that Peter was addressing didn't have Jesus as either. He wasn't Savior and He wasn't Lord. So what did they do? We will see that through the Word and through the Spirit, these people respond. Notice what it says in verse 37, "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Think of that imagery. They were cut to the heart. This is talking about conviction. Through the Holy Spirit, they were convicted. They understood who Christ is, both God and Savior. They realized He was not in their lives and felt guilt and shame because of their sins. They had not followed Jesus. They crucified Him, and they felt they were in big trouble. They were cut to the heart. Before you come into a relationship with Jesus that is what must happen to you by the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit takes His Word, impresses it upon you, and cuts your heart. There is a conviction that comes where you realize you are needy for Jesus. You have sinned and broken His laws. You have rebelled against Him and what you need is Christ.

Peter's Response

They were cut to the heart. And then they asked Peter, what should we do? Verses 38–41 say, "And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself." And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them saying, "Save yourself from this crooked generation." So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls."

They get the news that Jesus is both Christ and Lord. He is Savior and he is God. They ask what do we do? They realize they are broken and are not

following. Peter tells them to repent. Notice that Peter did not tell them to try to get better and maybe it will work out. No, Peter says to repent to a bunch of people at the right place, at the right time. They are at Pentecost doing what God has said. They are following the law, practicing the Sabbath, giving alms, and helping the needy. They are doing everything they think they should do, and Peter stands up and tells them they need to repent. The whole thing needs to turn around. Some of you are here at the right place and at the right time. You will be keeping the nursery after this, or you will be leading a small group this week, yet Jesus is not your Lord and your Savior. Your response is I will get a little bit better. Peter says no, if Jesus is not your Lord and Savior, you need to make a full circle turn. You need to repent.

- **Repentance**

Why do you need to repent? What is repentance? You are walking with a trust of self to get yourself to God, and then you realize that is not going to work. So you turn completely around and you trust in Christ alone. That is repentance. You turn 180 degrees. It is not just veering a little bit where you walk with both Jesus and yourself. No, it is a recognition that you can't do it, Jesus can, so you completely trust in the Lord Jesus. So, what is the response? It is to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus.

- **Baptism**

We will see baptism take a lot of modes through Acts. Stay with us as this is a transitional book. We are going from old covenant to new covenant. There are some things happening that are in progress. We will get information that is more complete on baptism, but right now for the Jews, they have to go through the humility of baptism. Jews didn't feel they needed to be baptized. It was the Gentiles who got baptized to come into Judaism. Now Peter is saying the Jews need to be baptized, and they needed to get baptized in the name of Jesus. They had to show, publicly, that they were declaring Jesus Christ, and when they do that, they will get the Holy Spirit. It is not teaching that baptism saves. No, it is the name of Jesus that saves. How do we know that you have believed the name of

Jesus? You show it. There is an outward, visible sign that you have believed in Christ.

Empowered as Witnesses

So, they were cut to the heart and they responded. Three thousand people came forth. Imagine that moment when three thousand people responded to the invitation that Peter gave to repent and believe that Jesus is both Lord and Christ. All of this was the promise of God. God had promised to draw a people to Himself, not just Jews, but from all people. The Holy Spirit is coming. Last week, we saw the gift of the Holy Spirit fall on the apostles and those super Christians who were already following Jesus. Now, the three thousand who repent all receive the Holy Spirit. This means that the Holy Spirit is for every believer in Christ. The gift is for all of us. God pours His Spirit among all of us. In Acts, He will use every single person to proclaim to every person the good news of Jesus. If you are a believer, you do not have to question if you have the Spirit. All of us, when we believe in Christ, get the Spirit so that we can be empowered to witness to everyone around us.

Peter has taken a text and shown how Jesus is the hero. Jesus is both Lord and Christ. Because of that, you need to repent. You need to turn and come to the Lord Jesus. Is Jesus your Lord and Savior? Peter's sermon did not have an impact because he had some good words. It had impact because he took the Word of God and the Spirit took the Word and worked it in the hearts of people. That is what happens when we correctly respond to a sermon. The Spirit of God takes the Word of God and works it into our hearts. Maybe your heart is cut because you are in the right place at the right time. Maybe you think you have a Savior, but He is not your Lord, which means He is not your Savior, because Christ is both. He is not just from Nazareth. He is both Lord and Christ. If you come to Him as Savior, you have to come to Him as Lord.