"We Helped Kill Jesus – It Was God's Plan"

Acts 2:22-35
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The Big Idea: Two things are both true – that man was responsible for Jesus' crucifixion and that this was the plan of God for our salvation. His substitutionary death and His resurrection from the dead both give testimony to the grace and mercy of God seeking the restoration of His rebellious creation.

Acts 2:14-21

2 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man *attested* to you *by God* with *mighty works and wonders and signs* that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— 23 this Jesus, *delivered up* according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, *you crucified and killed* by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, *loosing the pangs of death*, because *it was not possible for him to be held by it*. 25 For David says concerning him,

" '*I saw the Lord always before me*,
for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
my flesh also will dwell in hope.
27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One see corruption.
28 *You have made known to me the paths of life*;
you will make me *full of gladness with your presence*.'

29 "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. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was *not abandoned to Hades*, *nor did his flesh see corruption*. 32 This Jesus God raised up, and *of that we all are witnesses*. 33 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. 34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

" '*The Lord said to my Lord*,
"Sit at my right hand,
35 until I make your enemies your footstool." '

KEY POINTS IN PETER'S SERMON

1. Though Peter had challenged people to call on the name of the Lord and be saved, he hadn't yet presented Jesus to them. The sermon was complete only after God's salvation through faith in Jesus is explained.
2. God has been pointing us to Jesus since the beginning. David's psalms are ultimately about Jesus.
3. The Cross was the Father's plan [His "definite plan" and with the "foreknowledge of God"] and at the same time, there was human responsibility by those who demanded Jesus' death.
4. The Resurrected Christ is the Father's ultimate declaration to us that sin and death have been conquered and Christ is victorious over them!
5. Jesus is God.

WHAT THIS DEMANDS OF US

- ✓ A personal response to the person and work of Jesus. If Jesus is God and He is Savior, doesn't that demand a response from you?
- ✓ Will you repent and call on the name of Jesus to save you from sin and make you a new person?
- ✓ If you are already a Christian (fully trusting in Christ alone for your salvation and submitted to His Lordship), does the way you live your life reflect your beliefs? Are changes called for?