



“Christ-Centered Preaching”

Acts 2:36-41
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The Big Idea: Every sermon that we preach must be a **Christ-centered** sermon. The first sermon that is preached in the book of Acts is Christ-centered. If **Christ** is not at the center of our Gospel message, we are not a gospel preaching people.

Acts 2:36-41

³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” ³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

A Christ-Centered Message

- **Verse 36** is the summary statement of Peter’s entire message.
- Peter says in light of all the **evidence** that has been presented, the entire house of Israel must be told what God has done.
- Peter wants the crowd to know 2 important things: 1. Jesus is both **Lord** and **Christ**. 2. They are responsible for Christ’s **crucifixion**.
- If we are to be a Bible preaching church, we must preach Christ crucified and raised from the dead.
- Christ is the center of everything.

A Profoundly Personal Message

- Each one of us bears the **responsibility** of the death of Jesus.

- What may not have been carried out by our **hands** has been carried out by our **hearts**.
- Until you recognize that the death of Christ was something done **by** you, you will never appreciate that it was something done **for** you.
- “Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.” - 2 Corinthians 4:16-17

The Gospel Demands a Response

- The response of the crowd does not describe people that were uncomfortable by Peter’s message. It was as if they had been stabbed in the heart.
- It isn’t enough to simply hear the words of the Gospel and acknowledge them as words from God or as a good way to live. There needs to be **action!**
- Baptism has no value without **repentance** and **faith**.
- How have you responded to the truths of the Gospel?

“We must sense our evil in order to be grieved by it and seek ways to shake it off. Are we so disposed? Let us understand that God is ready to receive us and that, when he condemns us, it is to cleanse us; when he pricks us, it is to heal us; and when he threatens us, it is to call us unto himself.”

-John Calvin