

Acts # 28 “Peter’s Second Sermon” Acts 3:11-19

Immediately it became imperative for Peter to explain something important: that the fact that this man has strength and health for the first time in his life, with full use of his limbs, so that he can not only walk but also run, does not in itself mean anything; in other words, the miracle is not the important part.

There is something that happened to this man at the same time which is infinitely more important than the miracle; like the blind man in John 9, he received eternal life, unlike many who came to Jesus simply for physical healing.

Peter preaches a Gospel message which comes out of this miracle; a message delivered in the temple to religious people; a message so successful that 5,000 religious people were born again as a result of it!

When Peter says Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, he’s immediately referencing the foundation of the Jewish race which is a beacon light shining on the principle of salvation.

What made Abraham a Jew was not his physical birth; Abraham was born a Gentile but he became a Jew by means of regeneration; he believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Father Abraham had many sons; his first Ishmael, will always remain a Gentile because he was an unbeliever but his second son Isaac, became the line of the Jews because he was born again and the difference between Ishmael and Isaac was the difference that separates all mankind; a difference of attitude toward the cross of Christ.

Romans 9:6-14 tells us why all Israel is not Israel, explaining the principle of regeneration as the basis of the foundation of the Jewish race.

The reason for regeneration is the foundation of the Jewish race because God had a special mission for them in the OT.

Do you see how fantastic this is? These are religious legalists; graduates of the University of the scribes and Pharisees, those who had been condemned by Jesus Himself!

These people in their religious attitude rejected Jesus Christ as Messiah and Savior and have been responsible in part for His crucifixion.

By saying ‘*The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob*’ Peter indicates that they are alive right now.

Many people standing there saw Jesus perform miracles and had heard His messages and watched Him conduct Himself on the streets of Jerusalem so that He could go to the cross, sinless and bear their sins.

None the less, this was a sobering and very shocking thing for these pious, religious people to be called traitors.

Once again, Peter emphasizes the fact that they have denied and rejected Him but they’re not

dead yet for it and the fact that they are still alive and able to hear this message is a fantastic testimony to the grace of God and as a result, thousands of those people who cried for His crucifixion are actually going to be born again that day!

Resurrection is the answer to man's attempt to void the plan of God and resurrection means God the Father's approval of what Jesus Christ did on the cross.

Religion will always do everything it can to erase the Person and work of Jesus Christ but religion is incapable of doing so under God's plan which called for His physical, bodily resurrection.

Religion, which is Satan's ace in the hole, does not have the power to silence Jesus Christ. Peter's now telling what happened to the man who was crippled and healed; the miracle was only provided to get your attention people; it's the salvation that follows that's everything.

Peter lessens the indictment a little because this is true of most of the people.

The religious leaders did it willingly and deliberately; they knew what they were doing but the masses of religious people are caught up as victims of a horrendous system.

If they did it deliberately, that's between them and God and so, Peter by preaching the Gospel, tells what has happened by way of the facts without pulling any punches but he does not take the place of God and judge them.

Peter provided the facts: They betrayed Jesus Christ and they delivered up the Author of life but when it comes to judging their motivation, he backs off because as he knew full well, we must simply make the issue clear without prejudice.

Everything that the prophets of the Old Testament discussed about Jesus Christ's suffering has already been fulfilled.

Peter was announcing now to the Sanhedrin and to the religious people and to those who came to the temple as a result of his healing ministry, that Jesus Christ, Israel's true Messiah has come and has actually fulfilled every declaration regarding His suffering and death portrayed in the Old Testament.

The actual unique Passover Lamb has been slain once and for all.

The reason why so many people responded to this message was because Peter masterfully related the ministry of Jesus Christ in its fulfillment to the prophecies of the OT.

