

The Sermon that Changed the World

Acts 2:22-26 & 37-41

On Pentecost Sunday, May 24, AD 33, Peter preached to about 10-15,000 people at the Temple in Jerusalem. On that day 3,000 people became Christ followers, and that crusade fueled the explosive growth of Christianity throughout the world. His sermon is recorded in Acts 2.

The heartbeat of Peter's message is the singular, supreme truth: The Lord and Messiah has come in the person of Jesus. Let's focus on these two titles.

The formal meaning of the word, Lord, is one who has authority over persons, so, "master," and in religious usage as a designation and personal title for God. So, we owe Jesus total allegiance and complete obedience. The other title for Jesus is Messiah or Christ. It means the person God has chosen and empowered to rescue His people from the oppression of worldly powers. The title, "Messiah," refers to what Jesus has done for us. He has made a way for the forgiveness of our sins. The title, "Lord," refers to our posture toward Him, submission to His authority.

When they heard that message, it was like being stabbed in the heart. How can you come back from crucifying God's Messiah? Peter's answer was simple. A person must repent, the sign of which is immersion. To "repent" means to choose a whole new direction. It is to choose Him as your Messiah Who carried your sins to the cross and then begin to submit to Him as the Lord of your life.

Our biggest challenge is making Jesus Lord or Master. But Jesus said He is the truth and the truth will set you free. How can repenting and submitting to His Lordship set you free? You are only free to get the life results and eternal life results you desire by submitting to the rules—the Lordship—of your Maker. To repent is to affirm a change of mind—that I'm no longer my Lord, nor is the world my Lord. Jesus, God's Messiah Who rescues from the worldly power of sin and death, is my Lord!