



CrossCut

Sunday, March 17, 2013

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Acts 2:36-39 "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."

Acts 5:27-33 When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them, **28** saying, "We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." **29** But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. **30** "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. **31** "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. **32** "And we are

witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." **33** But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.

- The cross always allicits a response when preached effectively. It "cuts" -- "pierced to the heart...brother what shall we do?"
- "Cut to the heart..." Their response was NOT to ask what they should do; they couldn't put them back in jail because God released them.
- Either you reject Christ or replace Him with your own life; you either repent or remove the threat.
- How do we "fix" our situation? How will you respond to Christ's command? Are you willing to pick up your cross?
- Are you willing to follow Christ and make him the ruler of your life?
- Do you carry a cross in your wallet

I. Man Razed Christ; vs. Acts 5:30b

- The men in ACTS 5 "razed" Christ by putting him on the cross and "cutting him down". In his execution, Christ was "razed" by those who refused his authority.
- When we respond by "razing" God -- we seek to do away with the influence, the authority the Person of Christ. Are you willing to release everything to God, or will you "raze" the will of God. Man "razes" Christ; God intends to "raise" him.
- The truth is that when we follow our own direction, carry out our own will the more we see its NOT what we thought it would be. We don't direct well our own destiny. How we direct our lives proves we are not good "rulers" or "lords".
- Rather, we need to "raze" our will and "raise" Christ up in our lives.
- "We will RAZE the influence of the church" the leaders said
- Our tendency is to become disassociated from those who put Christ on the cross; we don't identify or connect our actions and attitudes with theirs. Yet, we are guilty; we share in the guilt of those who crucified Christ. When we see our guilt in the light of truth, we have the best response.
- Pentecost was a time of worship, celebrating God for the early harvest. The disciples were together up in an upper room. For 50 days they had waited, prayed, and sought to be engaged with God. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon them -- tongues of flame, the sound

of a rushing wind, and they spoke with other languages. Pouring out on the street, these Galileans poured out praising God in the accent, in the dialects of the people.

II. God Raised Christ; vs. Acts 5:30a

- God raises up Christ and shows his purpose.
- When we believe in Christ initially, we embrace his cross at the time of salvation.
- Yet we are called to do more than that initial act; we are to obey Christ and pick up my cross every day. For people who want to make a difference, the way of the cross is the norm, the path -- taking up the cross every day.
- Back-drop for ACT 5 is the death of Ananias & Sapphira -- a story not about money, but about devotion to God and complete consecration to him. This prompted the fear of God being spread abroad, the church grew, signs & wonders were done, the gospel was proclaimed bringing about the imprisonment of the apostles by the religious leaders. This had not stopped the preaching of the gospel. These same leaders now saw only one option – killing the disciples.

III. Will We:

A. Replace Christ's Will With Our Own? Acts 5:33

- We must confront the reality of our own selfwilled-ness.
- We must not be cross-less Christians, but rather pick up our cross daily.

B. Repent From Our Own Will To Submit To Christ's? Acts 2:38

- Only 2 responses to Christ -- resist and refuse his will or repent and yield to his will.
- On Pentecost, the response of people was to hear the indictment against them and respond to God's offer of mercy. Peter offered them forgiveness, the opportunity to repent and the invitation to be baptized & blessed. Though they had murdered the Son, God promised them mercy and blessing.
- These people had been "cut to the heart" and responded with openness, humility, obedience.
- Raising up Christ in this way, taking up the cross every day – having a life

that is “cross cut” – is more than a decision for salvation. It is a message for "living right" -- which is more than "getting to heaven".

- Are you willing to make his will first?