

Sermon for August 4, 2019

BMZ Regional Church

Series: "Doctor's Orders"

Text: Acts 2:25-47

Title: "Rx: Make It Clearly Known"

Introduction: GOOD MORNING, BMZ! Glad you're here as we WRAP UP our Summer Series called: "DOCTOR'S ORDERS"! We're doing A BIBLE STUDY through SOME of the WRITINGS of DR. LUKE! Luke is the AUTHOR of ONE of the FOUR GOSPELS / HISTORY of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, LUKE, John) in the New Testament.

So, who is LUKE? We KNOW he was a PHYSICIAN / Doctor. He was a GREEK GENTILE CHRISTIAN who was a close FRIEND and TRAVELING companion with PAUL. His MAIN AUDIENCE was the GENTILES ... people who were NOT JEWISH who were INVITED to follow the GOD of the HEBREW / JEWISH people. Now, as FAR as we KNOW, LUKE is the ONLY GENTILE Author in the New Testament.

Here was LUKE'S PLAN: He wanted to WRITE an ACCURATE ACCOUNT of JESUS that could NOT be DISPROVEN! He made SURE he had NOTHING but FACTS in his ACCOUNT of Jesus' life. He double-checked his FACTS to make SURE NO ONE could find a LIE or an EXAGGERATION in his WRITING. AND, his writing has HELD UP throughout HISTORY and has been EFFECTIVE for NON-JEWS / GENTILES for CENTURIES.

The 2nd PART of LUKE'S PLAN: He WROTE ANOTHER Book to give an ACCURATE ACCOUNT of the BIRTH and EARLY YEARS of the CHURCH. This is the HISTORY of the CHURCH, so we KNOW HOW they went into "***ALL the WORLD***"!

TODAY, we CONTINUE with PETER PREACHING in ACTS 2...

GRAB your MESSAGE NOTES ... *If you haven't already, I invite you to take out your MESSAGE NOTES and CONNECTION card. You will see that there are blanks to fill in ... Please take the time to do so. Grab a PEN and write down whatever else you think is important to you and your faith journey. After worship, drop off your CONNECTION CARD and take your MESSAGE NOTES home. Please Re-read the Scripture and the notes to keep growing and learning. For those of you joining on-line, you can go to our website, www.bmzchurch.org ... find the NOTES and follow along ... LET'S PRAY (turn off marked lights during prayer)!*

Just a few years ago, we were talking about what we could do to create more space at MT. ZION for worship/fellowship/learning. First thing we did was look at our ASSETS. We had a ONE ROOM church with an outhouse on property with a WRAP-AROUND CEMETERY and on another piece of property, about ¼ of a mile away; we had a larger building with a KITCHEN and an outhouse. NEITHER piece of PROPERTY was very BIG...

Then we tried to figure out what we could do with what we had ... RE-DO the buildings ... ADD ON to one or both? TEAR DOWN and re-build? I remember the day we went to look at HURLBUT Hall; The property with the kitchen. We were trying to assess if we could re-do that building and maybe add on a little bit more space. But as we looked at it, we realized it needed a NEW ROOF. Then there was concern as to how old the boards were in the roof ... not sure if we had enough to attach shingles to. Then we thought it would need to be RE-SIDED and some DOORS and WINDOWS redone. But we weren't sure the WOOD was good in the WALLS. Finally, we looked at the FLOOR of the building and more than one person talked about how DANGEROUS the FLOOR had become. Much of the floor had ROTTED. The PROBLEM was, the BUILDING had become WEAK over the years and it started in its FOUNDATION.

When we looked at the ORIGINAL Church building and started talking about ADDING ON, the ARCHITECT showed concern over the STONE FOUNDATION ... there since the 1800s. He was not sure if the FOUNDATION would HOLD what we wanted to build on top.

NEITHER place we owned had a STRONG FOUNDATION to BUILD a CHURCH on.

Believe it or not, that brings us BACK to the verses from the Bible we've been working on. We are in the Book of Acts. Jesus has been CRUCIFIED, DIED, BURIED, ALIVE AGAIN, MET with His DISCIPLES and other BELIEVERS, gave FINAL INSTRUCTIONS, LEFT and the Disciples WAITED in JERUSALEM like Jesus SAID. For WHAT? A GIFT!

The Jewish celebration of PENTECOST came, and the Holy Spirit was given as a GIFT to ALL who believed in Jesus as the Son of God. The BELIEVERS receiving the gift were ABLE to speak in the LANGUAGES of all the Jewish people gathered in Jerusalem FROM MANY COUNTRIES and REGIONS. They TOLD about JESUS and the MIRACLES and how he DIED to offer FORGIVENESS and how he CAME BACK to LIFE to PROVE we have HOPE to live forever in God's PARADISE. And EVERYONE was able to UNDERSTAND. Then Peter, the Disciple with the MOUTH BIG enough to put BOTH FEET in, stood and began to TELL WHAT was happening.

LAST WEEK we learned Peter used the great prophet Joel (NAME DROP) to help CONVINCED the people that what was happening was what God had PROMISED though JOEL. He talked about what would happen IF the HOLY SPIRIT was poured out ... young men will see VISIONS and old men will dream DREAMS. God was going to use them however He could!

Now, understand, Peter has STUCK in HIS MIND the LAST WORDS Jesus told the Disciples. *“But ... you will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Peter has a JOB to DO! And it's HUGE! To ACCOMPLISH TELLING the entire WORLD about Jesus the Messiah and DISCIPLING those people, Peter and the other APOSTLES must BUILD a GREAT TEAM around them!

They needed to BUILD a GROUP ready to go out on this MISSION. They, essentially, NEEDED to BELIEVE with ALL their HEARTS JESUS IS the SON of GOD. Because Peter KNEW, IF they truly BELIEVED, the REST would FALL into PLACE. They'd TELL about Jesus BECAUSE they COULDN'T CONTAIN THEMSELVES! They'd TRAVEL and WORK ENDLESS HOURS and DO WHATEVER it TOOK, BECAUSE they KNEW it was for the GREATEST CAUSE for HUMANITY. PETER needed a TEAM ready to go out and SPREAD the GOOD NEWS about JESUS. There was a JOB to get done!

PETER was BUILDING the CHURCH (Matt. 16)! And he got off to a great start ... he STARTED WITH, what most builders would start with; the FOUNDATION.

We've heard COACHES / LEADERS say the team *“must be on the SAME page”*. Or, *“ALL Believe in the System”*. *“We must all WORK as ONE to REACH the GOAL.”*

Peter KNOWS THIS. IF there is going to be a TEAM built to SHARE JESUS with the WORLD, they ALL must KNOW the SAME JESUS!

Again, Peter is BUILDING the FOUNDATION of the CHURCH ... the people who follow Jesus. To CONVINCED the people on Pentecost Sunday that JESUS was/is the SON of GOD / MESSIAH, Peter offers proof of what he believes. As a matter of fact, he offers FOUR (4) PROOFS Jesus was RAISED FROM THE DEAD and is STILL ALIVE as MESSIAH.

FOUR PROOFS of JESUS as MESSIAH:

We started this LAST WEEK, so we'll REPEAT a little and then PRESS ON! WHY is it IMPORTANT to LEARN THIS? In 2019, we might NEED to KNOW and OFFER PROOF!

#1 = The PERSON of JESUS

Last week we talked about how Peter REMINDED the people of the MIRACLES Jesus had done ... THEY had SEEN with their OWN EYES! Listen, JESUS was NOT UNKNOWN. Jesus is WAY more UNKNOWN TODAY. When JESUS was doing MINISTRY, NEWS traveled FAST! Priests from Jerusalem were coming to GALILEE to SEE what was going on! People CROWDED Jesus WHEREVER He WENT. He had a hard time GETTING AWAY!

Peter's AUDIENCE KNEW Jesus was a REAL MAN from NAZARETH. Many of those people had HEARD Jesus PREACH and WATCHED Jesus HEAL and/or bring BACK to LIFE. It's possible some of THEM had been HEALED by JESUS.

The PEOPLE KNEW the things Jesus DID were NOT NATURAL. PEOPLE did NOT DO what JESUS DID! What Jesus did was SUPERNATURAL! FEEDING 5,000 MEN, not counting Women and Children. HEALING them ALL! Bring people BACK to LIFE. They could NOT ARGUE with PETER on this PROOF! It was CLEAR GOD'S HAND was on JESUS.

Peter's AUDIENCE KNEW Jesus was NOT LIKE OTHER MEN who CLAIMED to be the MESSIAH. They had EXPERIENCED Him, HEARD Him SPEAK and WATCHED His LIFE. They could FIND NO FAULT in Jesus, yet... They CRUCIFIED HIM.

The Crucifixion was NECESSARY, but NOT the END. Think about it: The Crucifixion was a TERRIBLE CRIME and a WONDERFUL VICTORY all at the same time...

Now, here is WHAT ELSE Peter KNEW: (before we get to the other proofs) He KNEW that EVEN the MULTITUDES of Jews who PILGRIMAGED IN for Pentecost would have HEARD about JESUS. NEWS TRAVELS QUICKLY! Those RESIDENTS and VISITORS knew about the ARREST, TRIAL and CRUCIFIXION of Jesus of Nazareth. They had ALSO HEARD the "OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT" that His FOLLOWERS had STOLEN the BODY of JESUS to make people THINK He KEPT His WORD and been RAISED from the DEAD! But Peter told the TRUTH: Jesus of Nazareth had been RAISED from the DEAD!

Peter STARTS with the PERSON of JESUS and he continues to bring PROOF ... Acts 2:25-28 = ²⁵ *King David said this about him: 'I see that the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. ²⁶ No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. ²⁷ For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. ²⁸ You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.'*¹

#2 = The PROPHECY of DAVID

Peter REVEALS to these JEWS, there is PROOF in the WRITINGS of David, the GREATEST JEWISH KING, ABOUT the MESSIAH (Psalm 16).

"My HEART is filled with JOY and my MOUTH SHOUTS His PRAISES! My BODY RESTS in HOPE" ... WHY? Because God will NOT leave my SOUL among the DEAD...

The Holy One (He is PROPHECYING about Jesus) will NOT ROT in the grave! PETER EXPLAINS ... Acts 2:29-31 = ²⁹ *"Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn't referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. ³⁰ But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David's own descendants would sit on his throne. ³¹ David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah's resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave."*²

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 2:25-28). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 2:29-31). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Peter uses DAVID'S writing Listen, this is DAVID PROPHECYING. He was NOT talking about HIMSELF. David is DEAD. The TOMB is still in JERUSALEM! (PICTURE?) David is NOT speaking of HIMSELF; rather, he is SPEAKING of his DESCENDENT.

God PROMISED a descendent of David would BE the MESSIAH (promised by God for thousands of years). And, the HOLY ONE ... that descendent would NEVER ROT in a GRAVE.

And, PETER continues. He TIES the WORDS of DAVID to what HAPPENED to JESUS ... Jesus was NO LONGER in the TOMB ... Acts 2:32 = ³² *“God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this.”*³

3 = The WITNESS of the BELIEVERS

The BELIEVERS (120+?) had SEEN the things DAVID WROTE with their OWN EYES! MANY (Paul says over 500!) SAW JESUS after he DIED and CAME BACK to LIFE in the RESURRECTED BODY!

BUT, these BELIEVERS ... were they TRUSTWORTHY? OR, were THEY just SCAMMING the WORLD by STEALING the BODY? Were these believers somehow OUT for PERSONAL GAIN? NO! They were TRUSTWORTHY! They had NOTHING to GAIN from LYING about JESUS coming BACK to LIFE—their PREACHING and BELIEF in what they SAW (Jesus in resurrected body) often led to IMPRISONMENT, BEATINGS and sometimes DEATH. WHY keep PREACHING CHRIST RESURRECTED if it is NOT TRUE while facing THOSE CONSEQUENCES?

REMEMBER, AFTER Jesus DIED, the DISCIPLES did NOT BELIEVE Jesus would COME BACK from the DEAD. They were SURPRISED and SCARED! They were NOT FAKING ANYTHING and they put their LIVES on the LINE as PROOF!

Acts 2:33 = ³³ *Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.*⁴

#4 = The PRESENCE of the HOLY SPIRIT

IF the HOLY SPIRIT is in the world (EVIDENCED by the people suddenly SPEAKING in many LANGUAGES), GOD must have SENT HIM. God's SPIRIT comes from GOD!

JOEL promised the HOLY SPIRIT would be AVAILABLE to ALL people (Not just Moses and the Prophets). JESUS promised to GIVE the Disciples the GIFT of the Holy Spirit.

BUT, if Jesus is dead, He can NOT GIVE the Holy Spirit. Therefore, Jesus must be ALIVE! Follow? Peter goes on ... Acts 2:34-35 = ³⁴ *For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit in the place of honor at my right hand*³⁵ *until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet.’*⁵

This is Peter going back to the FACT that JESUS is NOT DEAD! NO! Jesus SITS in the PLACE of HIGHEST HONOR in Heaven ... at God's RIGHT HAND!

NOW ... Have you ever had one of those moments when you know you've done something wrong? Sometimes it's INSTANTLY ... *“Wow! What have I done?”* Sometimes it's OVER TIME you REALIZE it was NOT a GOOD DECISION... Well, Peter gives his AUDIENCE ONE of those MOMENTS here: Acts 2:36 = ³⁶ *“So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!”*⁶

Peter finishes his sermon with: *“So LET IT BE CLEARLY KNOWN by everyone in Israel that God has made this Jesus WHOM YOU CRUCIFIED to be both Lord and Messiah.”*

³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ac 2:32). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ac 2:33). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁵ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ac 2:34-35). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁶ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ac 2:36). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

We FINALLY had the MESSIAH we have been WAITING HUNDREDS of YEARS for, and YOU KILLED HIM! The RESULT? Acts 2:37 = ³⁷ *Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"*⁷

The RESPONSE

RESPONSE? PETER'S AUDIENCE begins ASKING Peter and the other Apostles, ***"What should we do?"*** Are you KIDDING ME? These people KILLED the Son of God, the MESSIAH, and then they have the NERVE to ASK what to DO?

I think it is IRONIC that the FORGIVENESS they NEED for SENDING Jesus to the CROSS would NOT be AVAILABLE to them IF Jesus had NOT DIED on the CROSS!

What should you DO, you ask? Acts 2:38-39 = ³⁸ *Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God."*⁸ Peter tells THEM ... those MURDERERS ... the SAME thing Jesus tells US TODAY: ***"Turn from your sins and turn to God, and to show the world you have been forgiven, be baptized."***

Peter doesn't ASK these people to GO and get BY THEMSELVES and talk to God. He CALLS them to a PUBLIC, RADICAL TESTIMONY of CONVERSION ... NOT some NONCOMMITTAL asking for salvation. Peter KNOWS if we are going to STICK with our FAITH, we need to be held ACCOUNTABLE before GOD and PEOPLE! They need to PUBLICLY DECLARE their CONFESSION of JESUS as LORD in their LIVES through BAPTISM ... So, everyone will know they follow Christ!

The FOUNDATION

This is the FOUNDATION of our Faith! This is the FOUNDATION of our CHURCH.

We believe so strongly that ***Jesus Christ is the Son of God***. We believe so strongly that ***we need to be forgiven***. We believe so strongly that ***without Jesus Christ and a BODILY RESURRECTION, our HOPE for an eternity in Paradise DISAPPEARS***.

We MUST be on the SAME PAGE! AND we MUST be a little RADICAL! LIFE is NOT business as usual with a little Jesus SPRINKLED IN ... our lives are TRANSFORMED IMMEDIATELY and OVER TIME in ALL AREAS of our LIVES!

There is a GREAT NEED in our world for the CHURCH, built on the FOUNDATION of JESUS CRUCIFIED and BODILY RESURRECTED! ... NOT people PLAYING Church, but real, DEDICATED people who are on the SAME MISSION PETER CALLED His AUDIENCE TO! Acts 2:40-41 = ⁴⁰ *Then Peter continued preaching for a long time, strongly urging all his listeners, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation!"*⁴¹ *Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day—about 3,000 in all.*⁹

Here's the deal... IF WE would STOP being EMBARRASSED about WHAT we BELIEVE ... IF we KNOW WHAT we BELIEVE (these verses are the FOUNDATION of our FAITH) ... And IF we SHOW what we BELIEVE by LIVING IT OUT every day with UNCONDITIONAL LOVE that only comes from God through His HOLY SPIRIT, we can start reaching out to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and all over the world in our world-wide mission.

The CHURCH

We need to be a CHURCH on MISSION again. The Christian Church was created to be a MOVEMENT. It was created for a MISSION. The CHURCH was meant to GO OUT. We have too many "churches" out there that STAY IN! Not here ... LET'S MOVE OUT!

⁷ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 2:37). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁸ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 2:38-39). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

⁹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2013). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Ac 2:40-41). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

Let's Pray!

Next Steps: *I will memorize Acts 2:32*
I will read Acts 2-3
I will repent of my sins and turn to God today
I will invite someone to worship next week for "3 RULES"

"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."
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