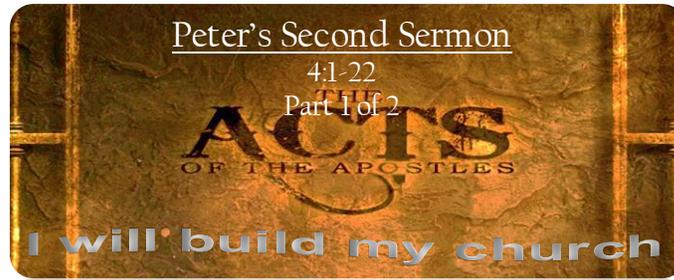


OCTOBER 12, 2014
21 FELLOWSHIP, SBC – MIDWAY, TX
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- I. The message of Jesus always produces strong **responses** – vv. 1-4.
 - A. Some oppose it due to disagreement with its various aspects – v. 1-2.
 - B. Some resist it because it threatens to **upset** their status quo – vv. 1-2.
 - C. Some react violently against the messengers – v. 3.
 - D. Some **yield** to it and gain salvation – v. 4.

- II. Every messenger of the gospel must take a **stand**, sooner or later – vv. 5- 12.
 - A. The larger the number of inquisitors is, and the more impressive their credentials, the higher the **pressure** to cave – vv. 5-6.
 - B. The “moment of **truth**” question may vary, but it is usually unmistakable – v. 7.
 - C. The anatomy of **successful** handling of a stand
 - i. Do not fear, the Holy Spirit will **enable!** – v. 8.
 - ii. Seize every opportunity to preach **Jesus** – vv. 9-12.
 1. **Honestly** – v. 9.
 2. To **all** – v. 10.
 3. **Boldly** – v. 10.
 4. As fully **human** – v. 10.
 5. As fully **divine** – v. 10.
 6. **Crucified** by the Jews – v. 10.
 7. **Raised** from the dead – v. 10.
 8. Who is the **foundation** of faith – v. 11.
 9. In whom **alone** is salvation of mankind – v. 12.

- III. The **fate** of God’s servants is ultimately in God’s hands – vv. 13-22.
 - A. When a bold stand for the gospel impresses the opponent, Jesus gets the credit – v. 13.
 - B. When God’s people put everything on the line for His message, God silences the detractors – vv. 14-16.
 - C. When faced with a choice between conflicting laws of men and laws of God, a believer must always choose God – vv. 17-20.
 - D. The final outcome of a particular conflict is entirely in God’s hands and will be based on His larger plan – vv. 21-22.

The Big Idea: In **following** the apostolic example, rather than **fearing** opposition, we are to seize every opportunity to boldly **testify** to Jesus.