

“Gospel Personified”
(as seen through the eyes of Peter)

Sermon Intro: Today we’ll look at both the
Person & Purpose of the Gospel

T/S: Going to use the acronym G.O.S.P.E.L. to show
the Gospel’s 6-stage content & context...

Christ:

Missionary
Martyr
Messiah

Church:

Mandate
Model
Miracle

And we’re going to look at all this...
...thru the perspective of Peter’s eyes...

T/S: So let’s get re-acquainted with Simon-Peter...

Peter’s Perspective

Fisherman turned into “Fisher of men”

Water-walker & wave-watcher

Jesus called him “rock” & “Satan” in the same paragraph...

Re-connect (Peter) back to the Last Supper: **Luke 22:31-34**

Jesus Prays for & Predicts Peter's Denial

31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.
32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." **33** But he replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death." **34** Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

G = **Go Get the lost...** for the Glory of God

Jesus the **“MISSIONARY”**

Garden of Gethsemane (a.k.a. the Mount of Olives):

*"Abba, Father, You can take **this cup** from Me, **but not My will...**"*

Prayer that results in "Sweat of blood"

Luke 22:42-44 = 42 "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." **43** An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. **44** And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

"...the spirit is willing but the body is weak."

Mark 14:37-38 = Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? **38** Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Peter whops off an ear...

Jesus is arrested

Jesus before the authorities: 4X

Luke 22:67 "If you are the Christ," they said, "tell us." Jesus answered, "If I tell you, you will not believe me,

"Is that the way that you answer the High Priest?"

Peter's 3 denials of Christ

Judas hangs himself

Jesus bound & handed over to Pilate

Jesus went before an "unfair" trial so we would not have to go thru a fair one...

John 18:37 = "You are a king, then!" said Pilate. Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, **for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.** Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Jesus or Barabbas

Jesus FLOGGED and CROWN of THORNS (John 19)

NOTE: it was not uncommon for men to die from the flogging alone

Jesus Delivered to Be Crucified

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. **2** And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. **3** They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. **4** Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." **5** So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" **6** When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him."

NOTICE: *this says it all... 19:15-16 = They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.*

Simon of Cyrene forced to carry Jesus' cross

O = **Own & Obey...** the Crucified Christ

Jesus the **"MARTYR"**

The Crucifixion

Definition: most prolonged, shameful & torturous form of death...

Crucified between 2 criminals

Luke 23:39-43 = *One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."*

The DEATH of JESUS..... **"It is finished."**

John 19:30 = *"It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

KEY: Luke 23:49 = ALL His acquaintances were there watching
(PLACES PETER AT THE CROSS)

Luke 23:49 = "...all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Miraculous signs & Roman guard's declaration:

Matthew 27:50-54 = *And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. 52 The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. 54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they (praised God) and were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely (righteous man) was the Son of God!"*

S = **Sure & Secure...** in the Risen Christ

Jesus the **“MESSIAH”**

The Resurrection

Mark 16:6-7 = *"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. **He has risen! He is not here.** See the place where they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"*

The empty tomb ran to & found by Peter & John...

Luke 24:11-12a = *But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb.*

Christ's resurrection foreshadows believer's resurrection (1 Cor. 15)
Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene

Tomb guards/soldiers are bribed to lie

Jesus appears to 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus

Jesus appears again & gives the GREAT COMMISSION (Matt.28:19)

KEY: Luke 24:44-49... "Then He opened their eyes to the Scriptures.... Plus giving great commission instructions...

Direct parallel of Acts 1:8

Luke 24:44-49 = *He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." 45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

John 20:19 *On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."*

REASON/PURPOSE of this GOSPEL: quote John 20:30-31

John 20:30-31 = *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

Risen Jesus appears for 3rd time to disciples (JOHN 21)

Jesus instructs for miraculous catching of fish

PETER DIVES IN WATER & SWIMS IN TO JESUS

Jesus' **threefold restoration (love motivation) of Peter** (Feed 3X)

PETER IS REDEEMED!

REDEEMED SINNERS FIND & FEED SHEEP!

P = Preach & Proclaim... the Good News

Jesus' **“MANDATE”**

Acts 1: Jesus gives final instructions to disciples/Church (Acts 1:8)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

3 He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. **4** And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The Ascension

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. **8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." **9** And when

he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

E = Engage & Endure... Every-one Every-where

Jesus' **“MODEL”**

Acts 2:

Holy Spirit comes and is poured out at Pentecost

- Disciples/Christians FILLED with HOLY SPIRIT
- Then Peter preaches best of sermons...
- The Christian Church is born!
- Church is best described in **Acts 2:42-47**
- NOTE: Christ's conflict/crisis with the Sanhedrin continues, but now thru the Church...
 - See how the Spirit prepares the Church...
 - Church rapidly expands...
 - God gives believers boldness & miraculous help

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 *When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Peter's Sermon at Pentecost

14 *...Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words..."*

36 *Let all the house of Israel therefore 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 cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" **38** And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you 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 for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." **40** And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." **41** So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

The Fellowship of the Believers

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. **43** And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. **44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. **46** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

L = Live & Love... as Salt & Light

Jesus' **"MIRACLE"**

*"Man's church is a mess...
BUT the Messiah's Church is a MIRACLE!" - JDP*

Acts 3: Miraculous Proclamation

Peter heals the crippled beggar

Peter's second sermon: He rebukes them for crucifying Jesus

The Lame Beggar Healed

4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." **5** And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. **6** But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" **7** And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. **8** And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. **9** And all the people saw him walking and praising God...

Peter's Second Sermon

12 And Peter addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? **13** The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. **14** But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, **15** and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses..."

Acts 4: Miraculous Boldness

Peter & John arrested... Sanhedrin offended by Peter's sermon!

The Church PRAYS for God's help & boldness...

Peter/John released

Peter and John Before the Council

4 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, **2** greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. **3** And they arrested... **4** But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

5 On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, **6** with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. **7** And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "**By what power or by what name did you do this?**" **8** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, **9** if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, **10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people** of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. **11** This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. **12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."**

The Believers' Prayer

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. **24** When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God... **27** Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate... **did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29** Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to **speak your word with great boldness...**

31 After they **prayed**, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.**

Acts 5: Miraculous Purification thru Persecution

Ananias and Sapphira

5 Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. **2** With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? **4** Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

5 When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened...

7 About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?" "Yes," she said, "that is the price." **9** Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also." **10** At that moment she fell down at his feet and died... **11** Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

The Apostles Persecuted

17 Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. **18** They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. **19** But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out. **20** "Go, stand in the temple courts," he said, "and tell the people the full message of this new life."

21 At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

25 Then someone came and said, "Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people....."

29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. **42** Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.

Acts 6: Miraculous Caring

Choosing of the first 7 Deacons (Stephen is 1 of the 7)
Stephen seized & accused of blasphemy

The Choosing of the Seven

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. **2** So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. **3** Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them **4** and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Stephen Seized

8 Now Stephen (one of the 7), a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. **9** Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue... These men began to argue with Stephen, **10** but they could not stand up against his wisdom or the Spirit by whom he spoke.

12 So they stirred up the people and... seized Stephen and... **13** They produced false witnesses, who testified...

15 All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Acts 7: Miraculous Christ-like Courage

Stephen's sermon/response to the Sanhedrin's charges
The FIRST CHRISTIAN MARTYR
Stephen is stoned to death for his unwavering & uncompromised faith

Stephen's Speech to the Sanhedrin

7 Then the high priest asked him, "Are these charges true?"

2 To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran. **3** 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you... etc. etc. etc. (Stephen retells Hebrew history)

51 "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! **52** Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— **53** you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it."

The Stoning of Stephen

54 When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. **56** "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, **58** dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

Acts 8: Miraculous Multiplication...

Multiplication thru:

Scattering: 8:1

Sending: Philip & Eunuch

Scathing: Peter/Simon the Sorcerer

Sharing: testifying, preaching, proclaiming

Christian Church is persecuted and scattered

- See role of Saul now (and Paul next chapter)
- Tie together Acts 8:1 & Acts 1:8 (powerful!)

See Philip in Samaria... then later in chapter... Philip w/ Ethiopian

Response of Simon the Sorcerer

Peter & John “lay hands on” people and expand the Church

1 *And Saul was there, giving approval to his death.*

The Church Persecuted and Scattered

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

3 *...Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.*

Philip in Samaria

4 *Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. **5** Philip went down to... Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there... **7** With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. **8** So there was great joy in that city.*

KEY: **14** *When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. **15** When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, **16** because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. **17** Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

18 *When Simon (the Sorcerer) saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money **19** and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."*

20 Peter answered: *"May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! **21 You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. 23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and***

captive to sin."

25 *When they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.*

CLOSE:

Always remember the SOURCE & COURSE of the Gospel...

The Gospel is "personified" IN Christ... & THRU the Church.

Christ:

**Missionary
Martyr
Messiah**

Church:

**Mandate
Model
Miracle**

PRAY!