

Second Sunday of Easter

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Acts 3:12-20
April 11, 2021

Own, don't disown, the Author of Life.

- Some time after Pentecost - Peter & John headed to the temple for 3 PM prayer
- At the Gate Beautiful a 40+ year old man, lame from birth, sat begging every day
- Peter: *What I have, I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk. Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately the man's feet and ankles were made strong.* ⁸ *Jumping up, he stood and began to walk. He entered the temple courts with them, walking, jumping, and praising God.*
- Jerusalem's regular worshipers recognized the man - gathered totally amazed.
- Stop! What had they heard and seen before this? Jesus at the festivals - 3 years
 - ♦ The torn curtain. The guard's report. News of resurrected believers.
 - ♦ Claims from Jesus' disciples and their change - joy & hope. - Not personal.
 - ♦ Pentecost - amazing, but the miracle of other languages - that impressed visitors.
 - ♦ This was personal. They all knew this man. They were stunned! **How?**
- ❖ Shocking news! *The One you disowned did it.*
 - Peter and John joined the God of their fathers in giving **all glory to Jesus**.
 - Crucifying Jesus they had said, *He's not one of our own. We despise and disdain him. We repudiate the claim that he is the Son of David, our Messiah King.*
 - ♦ Crucifixion: declares Jesus to be a **public disgrace. Rubbish. Good riddance.**
 - **God clearly** did not share their evaluation of Jesus the Nazarene.
 - ♦ The one they despised is **God's pride and glory**. His **beloved Son**, the **Christ**.
 - ♦ Jesus is the promised **Holy and Righteous One**, the purpose for Abraham's family.
 - ♦ **God glorified** Jesus: **raising** him from the dead - performing **miracles** in his Name.
- ❖ You killed the *Author of Life*. But he is now alive!
 - Jesus is God the Son, through whom all things are made. *In him was life.* Jn 1:4
 - Peter says this and **more**. *Archegos* - is *founder, initiator, instigator, trial blazer*.
 - ♦ Jesus **blazed the trail through the grave** to physical resurrection.
 - ♦ All who own the Author of Life as theirs - will rise like him when he returns.
 - ♦ All who own the Author of Life as their life, daily rise to new life in him.
 - That's what **Easter and every Sunday** worship celebrates and proclaims:
 - ♦ **To glory** in the One **God glories in** - to **own** Jesus as our *Author of Life*
- ❖ The Lord seeks to reclaim those who disowned Jesus, the *Author of Life*
 - These people thought they *faithfully confessed God*. In fact they disowned him.
 - Not recognizing the Messiah, they disowned God, worshiping their values & ideas.
 - They came face to face with their lies. Jesus was and is the **Blessed One - Messiah**.
 - ♦ Would they disown their ways *or* continue to disown the Living God?
 - ♦ The Lord was calling them to **disown their disowning of him**. To embrace Jesus.
 - What mercy! What grace! God at work to fulfill his promise: *I will be your God and you will be my people.* *Your* and *my*: speak of him **owning** them - they **owning** him
 - What horror to face the fact they were guilty of disowning the One they lived for.
 - What horror **for us** to face that fact: every sin is a disowning of God as our God.
 - ♦ Every sin says, *God, I disown your way of life. I find life in doing it my way.*
 - ♦ How foolish! **How** can there be life **apart from** the *Author of Life*?

- Peter is not just preaching to those who screamed, **Crucify. Crucify.**
- ♦ Peter and all who faithfully proclaim God's word call us to live a life of joyful repentance, turning away from our search for life in our own ways.
- ♦ To disown *our disowning* of Jesus as our God and Lord. Turn back to his cross and empty tomb **to have your sins wiped out** - their guilt and their *fake life*.

Own, don't disown, the Author of Life.

- ❖ Peter teaches us what it means to **own & disown the Lord**. He quotes Dt. 18:15,18,19
 - *The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet from your brothers who is like me. Listen to everything he tells you.* ²³ *And this is what will happen: Every person who does not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from the people.*
 - **Listen to everything he tells you. That's life - the way of life!**
 - ♦ God's Word is more than ideas and facts. It is his life-giving Word.
 - ♦ It enlightens and transforms our thinking to walk with God in life.
 - ♦ It rescues us from disowning him - walking in the paths of death & wickedness.
 - Refusing to listen to God's Christ = disowning God - disowning Life in him.
 - ♦ *Every person who does not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from the people.*
 - ♦ Why? **How** can you have life **apart from** the *Author of Life* the Risen One?
 - ♦ To refuse to live listening to Jesus = living in lies that lead to death. Jesus told these people earlier: *you do not believe, because you are not my sheep...²⁷ My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand.*
 - Do you see how Jesus defines *believe* and *life*? **To live listening to Jesus.**
 - God's people gather for his word and sacraments. There is life! Nowhere else!
 - ♦ Knowing about Jesus doesn't make you a Christian.
 - Those who do not long to regularly listen to Jesus are in fact disowning him.
 - All the protests in the world don't square with God's words. *Every person who does not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from the people.*
 - They cut themselves off from the *Author of Life*, finding their "life" elsewhere.
 - Hebrews 6 warns us about falling way from listening to Jesus. ⁶ *...To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.* In other words: **disowning him** = crucifying Jesus.
 - ♦ The Small Catechism warns us against disowning Jesus by *despising his word*. *Despise doesn't* mean hate. It means *to consider worth less than something else*.
 - ***We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.*** Live claiming Jesus as my own.
- ❖ To own God's *Author of Life* actually means Jesus owns us.
 - Jesus calls those who delight in him **his people**. He promises: ***I am your God.***
 - Under his reign we have life - new life, rising up above this world of death.
 - ♦ ***your sins wiped out,²⁰ so that refreshing times may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you.***
 - ♦ Jesus, the Risen One, comes daily to fellowship with us through his Word.
 - ♦ Filling our lives with life to the full - leading to the Resurrection.
 - ♦ Those who call him Lord, discover the freedom of serving him rather than sin and death. Easter teaches us to...

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