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## *Who Is Jesus? Pt 3*

**Acts 10:36-48**

**Keywords:** Acts 10, High Priest, Sacrifice, Atonement, Person of Jesus, Christology

**PowerPoint Presentation included:** none

**SermonAudio Blurb:** Peter is now ready to address the house of Cornelius, filled with friends and family of this Centurion. But what is his message? It begins and ends with the person and work of Jesus. In this short series we walk through his words to see the many qualities that belong to Jesus and see the utter centrality of Him in all things.

### **I. Introduction.**

- A. We come again with the rich privilege to consider the person and work of Jesus Christ our Savior.
- B. In Acts 10 we are examining the details woven into a brief but densely packed sermon given by the Apostle Peter to a house filled with Gentiles.
  - 1. Peace-Maker (36a).
  - 2. Messiah (36b).
  - 3. Lord (36c).
  - 4. Historical (37a).
  - 5. The focus of the prophets (37b).
  - 6. Anointed by the Holy Spirit (38).
- C. The next quality about Jesus is so important and so full that it will require all of our time today. It is Jesus as our Sacrifice and our High Priest.
  - 1. In the Old Testament there is a section in Leviticus that describes the most important day in the year for Israel—The Day of Atonement or *Yom Kippur*.
  - 2. It involved very specific rituals that were to be carried out by the High Priest and it was the only time every year in which the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies. At any other time, he would die. And to even enter it on this most holy day, if he did it improperly, he would die.
  - 3. Now you must understand that there were two sort of categories of sins, intentional and unintentional.

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4. It was a somber, holy day. But also a day of much hope and joy for all as the burden of sin was removed.
- D. But all of this was but a shadow of the coming work of the Messiah, who would take up these roles and fulfill them in perfection and totality.

## II. 14 Qualities about Jesus.

- A. Sacrifice (39).
  1. Having asserted that Jesus, who was known by those in attendance, was anointed with the Holy Spirit and how He went and did many works of power in doing good and destroying the work of demons, Peter now moves to the work of atoning for sin.
  2. The saving sacrifice offered by Jesus Christ is a key, non-negotiable aspect of the saving work by God.
    - a. Ephesians 2:8-9:
      - b. What is often passed over by people is that little word “for” at the beginning of verse 8.
        - (1) It means that Paul is now giving an explanation, “For this reason you have been saved BY grace THROUGH FAITH. And this is done not of yourselves.”
        - (2) So this statement that brings so many great joy and hope is based on what Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the verses above. What are they? They are the simple, brutal truths of our sinfulness.
        - (3) Ephesians 2:1-3:
          - (4) So here in lies the problem. We are dead in sin. Our sins. We conduct our lives in accordance to this age (whatever the stripe we choose). We are under the rule and power of Satan. We are marked out as sons (and daughters) of our father, whose name is “disobedience.” Our lives are defined by the desires of our sinful nature. And this moves even into our thoughts and desires. And so the wrath of God is our future.

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3. And it is here that we see the need for a solution.
  - a. We may choose to simply reject this whole thing and say that everything is fine. But then we would have to suppress all that assaults our sense of right and wrong in this world.
  - b. But what is needed is somehow to address and remove this barrier between us and God. But the bible makes it clear that this cannot be done on our end of the situation.
  - c. This is where the concept of the sacrifice comes into play.
4. What is meant by the term “atonement?”
  - a. It is at its most basic sense the idea of satisfaction. Satisfying the righteous demands of God in regard to sin and sinners.
  - b. But through the death of Jesus Christ this punishment is satisfied on our behalf. So, the doctrine of atonement is shorthand for all of the nuances of how our sin and punishment are resolved fully by Jesus Christ.
5. The nature of Christ’s sacrifice:
  - a. First, it was a willing sacrifice.
    - (1) This is such a tender act that truly pushes the limits of our understanding. But only if we can keep the backdrop of our sinfulness before our eyes.
    - (2) Jesus, infinitely holy, perfect in all aspects, the very definition of good, righteous and pure, willingly offers Himself to bear our sin.
    - (3) John 10:10-15.
      - (a) Note the distinction of the thief vs the good shepherd. (10-11)
      - (b) Now note the distinction between the hireling vs the good shepherd. (12-15)

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- (4) All of this is bound up in His name, Jesus, Matthew 1:21.  
The name literally means “YHWH saves.”
- b. Second, at the core of this sacrifice is what is known as the penal, substitutionary sacrifice.
  - (1) Penal speaks to the just judgement and punishment for sin; while the substitutionary speaks to the fact that Jesus Christ stands in our place.
  - (2) 2 Corinthians 5:21.
    - (a) Here we have three person in view: the Father, the Son and the Sinner.
    - (b) And this is what is in view here. The Father places our sin upon Jesus Christ the sinless One. The result is that we then take on the righteousness of Christ.
- c. Third, it is a sufficient sacrifice, (1 Peter 2:24).
  - (1) The whole of the context is worthy of your careful consideration.
    - (a) In vs 21:
    - (b) In vs 22:
    - (c) In vs 23:
  - (2) But it is in vs 24 that we have the glorious truth of what happened to our sins.
    - (a) It was on the cross that those sins were taken up by Him. In humility of mind and a heart of pure obedience He accepted sins of all who are His. And these sins were placed there by His Father.
    - (b) It was there that our sins were taken up. The word, “bore” could also be translated as “carried” or “offered up.”
    - (c) In Hebrews 7:27 it is used to denote the offering up of our sins by the High Priest.

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- d. And it is here that we can transition from Christ the perfect sacrifice to Christ the true and eternal High Priest.
- B. Christ, our Eternal High Priest.
1. The bible makes it clear that not only was Jesus the perfect and all-sufficient sacrifice for sin, but He is also our High Priest.
  2. We all require a priest; whether some of you know it or not. We need someone to be the mediator between God and ourselves.
    - a. The bible gives us only One who is the Priest whom God shall accept. And that is Jesus Christ.
    - b. 1 Timothy 2:5, ***“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”*** And if this is true, then any other person claiming to be a priest who mediates for you and God is a fraud.
  3. The book of Hebrews is the central place to see how Jesus is that perfect High Priest.
    - a. Hebrews 2:17-18, His humanity makes him a fit high priest. Having been fully tempted He becomes merciful, faithful, and able to satisfy all that God demands.
    - b. Hebrews 3:1, therefore He is the only One of we may confess as our priest. It was God who appointed Him to that role.
    - c. Hebrews 4:14-16, as our high priest He alone entered into the heavenly tabernacle to make atonement. He a sympathetic high priest who understands us in our weakness and because of His saving work we are able to always come before God.
    - d. Hebrews 7:17, He is not of the lineage and order of Aaron, but of another high priest, Melchizedek. This is an eternal priesthood. Therefore, vs 24 says that this priesthood is permanent.
    - e. Hebrews 7:26-27, such a wonderful listing of His excellencies.
    - f. Hebrews 8:1, He is now seated in heaven at the right hand of the Father where He is able to make eternal intercession to the Father.
    - g. Hebrews 9:11-12, in reference to the Day of Atonement, it was done year after year. But for Christ, this was done in the true tabernacle in heaven and His offering of Himself was and is eternal. Our sins are no more.

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- h. Hebrews 10:11-14, 18-23, one offering by One True and Eternal high priest. He makes all who are His perfected. And because of this, we are able to draw near to God in fulness and sincerity because we are clean.

### **III. Conclusion.**

- A. Jesus, Lord of all. The promised messiah has come.
- B. Jesus, our perfect High Priest and all-sufficient sacrifice has taken our place on the cross and died for us.
- C. What then does this mean?
  - 1. So many things to choose from, but allow me to state a couple.
  - 2. First, when we shy away from coming to our Father in heaven in our weakness and sin; we simply show we do not fully see the vastness of Christ's work. Let us today fix our eyes on Him alone.
  - 3. Second, sin is serious. Jesus does not save us by bearing away our sins so that we might remain in sin. Jesus saves us from our sin that we might walk in holiness in all ways. Let us press forward together in that pursuit.
  - 4. Third, as our high priest we must stop looking for other people and places to fill our hearts and assuage our fears. Jesus Christ came that we might be fully free. As Jesus said in John 8:36, "***So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.***"

### **Benediction**

**May our gracious Father in heaven cause us to be found in Christ, clothed on in His righteousness which comes through faith from the hand of God. May we know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings as we become conformed to His death. Amen**