

Acts 5:30-32—August 25, 2020

30a. “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed, hanging him on a tree”

Note the contrast here. The Council killed Jesus, but God raised him from the dead.

30b. “whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree”

This phrase, “hanging him on a tree,” comes from Deuteronomy 21:22-23, where God told Israel to execute criminals convicted of a capital crime by hanging them on a tree.

By using the phrase, “hanging him on a tree,” do you think Peter therefore equates Jesus’ death to the death of a guilty and accursed person.

Why?

31a. “God exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior”

As noted above, Jesus’ exaltation by God contrasts dramatically with the action of the Council which hung Jesus on a tree.

The Council lifted up Jesus on a cross, but God lifted him up to sit at God’s right hand.

31b. “to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins”

God’s purpose in lifting Jesus up was not that Jesus might take revenge on his tormentors.

The purpose all along had to do with forgiveness of sins.

The good news for the Council is that repentance and forgiveness are available to them even though they are guilty of having murdered the messiah.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THESE OBSERVATIONS?

32a. “We are His witnesses of these things”

The apostles have seen the risen Christ, and so meet the standard for legal witnesses to the resurrection.

1. The women at the tomb (Matt. 28:9-10)
2. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18)
3. Two men of Emmaus (Mark 16:12; Luke 24:13-32)
4. Peter in Jerusalem (Luke 24:34; I Cor. 15:5)
5. Ten disciples (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-23)
6. Eleven disciples (John 20:24-29; I Cor. 15:5)
7. Seven disciples fishing in Galilee (John 21:1-23)
8. Eleven disciples in Galilee (Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-18)
9. Five hundred persons (presumably in Galilee; I Cor. 15:6)
10. James, the brother of the Lord (I Cor. 15:7)

32b. “and so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him”

But the greatest witness to Jesus’ resurrection is the Holy Spirit, who enabled the apostles to speak in many languages at Pentecost (2:4) and to work miracles of healing as a part of their witness to the

resurrection (3:1-10; 5:12-16).

I LOVE THIS STORY...IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED.