

What It Means to Preach Jesus

Acts 8:35, "Then Philip...beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him."

Introduction: There is a big push among some within churches of Christ to "just preach Jesus." We certainly do need to "preach Jesus" but what did this "Jesus preaching" entail in the New Testament when people like Philip "preached Jesus" to the Ethiopian in Acts 8? Let's consider what is involved with preaching Jesus as we look at an inspired historical record of such preaching!

I. Preaching the Old Testament (Acts 8:30-35; cp. Isaiah 53:7-8)

- A. The Old Testament foretells of Jesus (John 5:39; Luke 24:44).
- B. The Old Testament is inspired (1 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 1:20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- C. The Old Testament is written for "our learning" (Romans 15:4).

II. Preaching Jesus as the Christ (Acts 8:5, 37).

- A. This is what Peter preached (Acts 2:22, 36).
- B. This is what Paul preached (Acts 17:2-3).
- C. This is what Apollos preached (Acts 18:28).

III. Preaching the Kingdom (Acts 8:5, 12)

- A. Its establishment (Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9)
- B. Its spiritual nature (John 18:36)
- C. It's the church (Matthew 16:18)
 - 1. Note: The term "kingdom" is used in different ways dependent upon context, so we ought to be careful of over-simplification.
 - 2. However, in certain contexts "kingdom" is used congruently with the term "church" and to preach Jesus as the "king" of the "kingdom" is consistent with preaching Jesus as the "head" of His "body, the church" (cp. Ephesians 1:22-23).

IV. Preaching the Authority of Jesus (Acts 8:5, 12)

- A. Jesus has all authority (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:22)
- B. Everything done should be done in His name (Colossians 3:17)

V. Preaching Faith (Acts 8:35-37, 12)

- A. Faith is essential (Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)
- B. Preaching helps elicit faith (Romans 10:13, 17)

VI. Preaching baptism (Acts 8:35-36, 12)

- A. Baptism involves water (1 Peter 3:20-21)
- B. Baptism is a burial (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12)
- C. Baptism is essential (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Conclusion: Some are afraid to truly “preach Jesus” because they are afraid it will offend someone. But, would we rather offend people who are offended by the truth or offend Jesus by not preaching the truth? “*Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me*” (Matthew 11:6)!