

Men's Breakfast

Lord's Supper
Senior Saints Fellowship

Graduation

Sunday Morning Message

June 2, 2024

Now That I Have Your Attention

Text – Acts 3

Congregational Reading – Acts 3:9 - 12

Sukin Lucas

Bud Stone

Visitors

Days of Praise

Pastor Faison

Gene Herman

T. W. Sherry

Lexi

Bon + Maria

Introduction

To refresh your memory – we last studied Acts 2, and the Day of Pentecost where 3000 souls were gloriously saved and baptized. At the end of the chapter, we got an idea of what some of the ingredients there were present in this early group of believers.

Re-read Acts 2:42 – 47

Now read verse 3:1

Notice in verse 1 that Peter and John were together. These men were perhaps a little envious of each other at one time, both seeking a prominent position in the kingdom, but now they are together. The Holy Spirit brings yielded believers together.

Notice also the continued priority that the disciples placed on prayer. They were going to the place of prayer, at the hour (or time) of prayer 3 pm (also the time associated with the evening sacrifice). These men had already been in prayer in the upper room. They already had a prayer meeting among the rest of the disciples, but now they are going to the place and time where the Jews would be gathered for prayer. They came to do more than just pray – they came to preach the gospel to the many Jews that were gathered at the temple. They were looking for opportunities to witness.

Transition – The Holy Spirit was orchestrating an event here at the temple that would get the attention of all these people that were gathered together and allow Peter and John the opportunity to lead many people to the Lord.

I. A Miracle that was Very Powerful (vs. 2 – 11)

Note – The miracles of healing and tongues, etc. that were done through the power of the Holy Spirit, through some of these 1st Century Christians were temporary, and transitional gifts, known as sign gifts (see 1 Corinthians 12) They validated the message of the apostles and prophets.

"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:" - (1 Corinthians 1:22)

"Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe." - (1 Corinthians 14:22)

Why don't we have these gifts today? Because we have the completed Canon of Scripture

today – the Word of God.

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." - (Romans 10:17)

But in this transitional time, God validated and authenticated the message of the Apostles and Prophets through these sign gifts, and as we will see in our passage today, these miraculous gifts got the people's attention.

vs. 2 - 3 – The eastern gate of the temple that separated the Court of the Gentiles from the Court of Women. This is a gate that Jesus had no doubt been through, yet He never healed this man. Perhaps they never came in contact, but perhaps also the Lord was reserving this healing for this time, with these particular servants, in order to validate the message that they were about to preach to them.

This man was in this condition his whole life.

This man was well known to the people in and around the temple.

He was begging for money. The word "alms" means a donation, or a benefit, a gift of charity.

vs. 4- 6 - Notice – Peter and John are broke

Illustrate – Thomas Aquinas – "Neither can we say 'rise up and walk'"

Notice – "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth"

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." - (John 14:12-14)

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." - (John 15:16)

The phrase "in the name of Jesus" means under the authority of Jesus. Peter was acting as an agent of the Lord. He wasn't doing this on his own. He was a representative of the Lord, an ambassador.

In the next chapter, the religious leaders are going to ask Peter by whose authority was doing what he was doing.

"And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" - (Acts 4:7)

It is important to note that Peter and James were ministering under the power, "dunamis", of the Holy Spirit; and under the power, "authority", name, of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The name of Jesus is powerful:

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." - (Acts 4:12)

vs. 7 – 9 – Notice there is power in the message of a transformed life, and in the mouth of a praising Christian.

This guy is not only a changed man – He is telling everybody about it.

If God has saved you, you need to be publicly proclaiming His goodness to all the people around you.

"Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;" - (Psalm 107:2)

The woman at the well met Jesus and went into town and told everybody.

The demoniac of Gedara went back into town and told his friends what the Lord had done for him.

"Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." - (Psalm 106:1)

"Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation." - (Psalm 111:1)

"Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD." - (Psalm 135:1)

"Praise ye the LORD: for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely." - (Psalm 147:1)

"Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD." - (Psalm 150:6)

Illustration - Dr. Gray used to say, "if you are saved, tell your face"

"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." - (Hebrews 13:15)

vs. 10 – 11 - Now this powerful miracle, which brought about a changed life, and a praising Christian, got the attention of the people. They were now ready to hear what Peter had to say.

II. A Message that was Very Public (Acts 3:12 – 26)

A Message about a Saviour Who Is Risen

vs. 13 – 15; v 26 - notice the word "glorify"

"Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." - (John 12:28 KJV)

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." - (John 17:5)

Jesus was glorified when He was raised from the dead.

"We serve a risen Saviour. He's in the world today – I know that He is living whatever men may say. I see his hand of mercy – I hear His voice of cheer, and just the time I need Him, He's always near."

The tomb is empty.

Yes, He died – Yes, He shed His blood (and thank God for it, for without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sins) – Yes He was buried – but don't ever forget – don't ever leave out of the message the fact that "Up from the grave He arose – a mighty triumph or His foes."

A Message for a Sinner Who Needs to Repent (v 19)

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." - (Acts 2:38)

"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:" - (Acts 17:30)

A Message about Sins That Can Be Remitted

"that your sins may be blotted out"

These people that Peter was preaching to were guilty as charged, deserving of Hell; but if they were willing to humble themselves, repent, and place their faith in Christ, they could have all their sins blotted out. What a God!

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." - (Isaiah 1:18)

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." - (Psalm 103:12)

III. A Multitude of Saved People (Acts 4:4)

The result of this powerful miracle, and this very public message was that multitudes of people were saved.