

**TITLE: IN THE NAME OF JESUS**

Luke has described the early church by saying,

Acts 2:43

Many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

In Acts 2 Luke does not give us any indication what those miraculous signs and wonders may have been.

But now, when we come to Acts 3, we have an account of at least one of them,

the story of the lame man who was healed at the gate beautiful

TEXT: Acts 3:1-16

I believe that out of all the wonders Luke could have talked about he selected this one in order that he might teach us something significant

On the Day of Pentecost, power from heaven came down.

They had received the promise of the Holy Spirit and were clothed with power from on high.

But power for what?

Did they receive the power of God simply so they could feel good about themselves?

Did they receive the power of God to keep it to themselves?

**NO!**

They received the power of God to energize them to be witnesses for Jesus Christ

The power of the Holy Spirit was to enable the disciples to reach out and touch human need and share the liberating truth of the Gospel of Christ.

### **IN OUR TEXT TONIGHT,**

we see the power of God healing a human life – TRULY A WONDER

We also see people who have been touched by the power of God touching others. GIVING THEM THE WORD

What we have here is the first instance of an important pattern for the way evangelism is done

For we not only need to meet peoples need for the WORD, but we need to show them the POWER of God and the reality of His presence

I want us to see three things tonight:

- 1) The **content of the word;**
- 2) and the **content of the wonder.**
- 3) The relationship between the wonder and the word of God preached –

### PRAYER

#### **1) THE CONTENT OF THE WORD.**

Peter's sermon encompasses all of Chapter 3

And finishes with Peter and John being arrested

Tonight we are going to look at the first part of the sermon

Interestingly, it is remarkably similar to the one he preached on Pentecost

The heart of that PENTECOST sermon **WAS**

**GOD HAS ENDORSED JESUS**

*God has endorsed Jesus*

Through His Miracles,

Through His sacrifice for sins,

By raising Him from the dead,

By exalting Him to the right hand of God,  
And by The pouring out of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

His point was, that those that had completely ignored God's endorsement of Jesus

Were utterly out of step with God's plan  
And Gods will

Here in Acts 3:12

Because of the Miracle they saw

Crowds gather and Peter explains what happened in the miracle by giving his second sermon

### **THE FIRST THING HE DOES IS TO EXALT JESUS IN FIVE DIFFERENT WAYS**

He says,

Acts 3:13

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus.

#### **1. Jesus is the servant of the Lord**

The king James translates this SON but servant is more accurate  
The title harkens back to

Isaiah 52:13

See, my servant will act wisely;  
he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

Meaning that He is the Messiah or anointed one

Matthew 12:18

"Here is my servant whom I have chosen,  
the one I love, in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,

and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

This is a pretty powerful affirmation of who Jesus is

## **2. God glorified him**

**That is God gave him the highest place of glory in the entire universe at his own right hand**

Then He goes on Acts 3:14

You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

## **3. Jesus is holy and righteous**

**-- THE Holy and Righteous One,  
not a criminal,  
not a blasphemer**

Acts 3:15

You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

**4. Jesus is the Co-creator of life with God the Father;  
and he is the source of all true spiritual life),**

**5. God endorsed this Jesus by raising him from the dead**

So there are five exaltations of Jesus –

That's the essence of this sermon,

To magnify Jesus.

He is

1. the long-awaited servant of the Lord
2. glorified by God
3. the Holy and Righteous One

4. the Author of Life
5. raised by God from the dead

The apostles and many others had seen the risen Lord.

They were first hand witnesses

They knew these things about Jesus without any doubt.

But the other half of the sermon,  
**As at Pentecost,**

Is to show the listeners how utterly far they are from the truth and how dishonoring they have been to Jesus.

In the second part Peter makes

#### **FOUR DEVASTATING INDICTMENTS:**

The first two are mentioned in verse 13:

Acts 3:13

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go.

- 1. You handed Him over to be killed**
- 2. You disowned Him before Pilate**

The third indictment comes in verse 14:

Acts 3:14

You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

In other words,

- 3. You traded infinite righteousness and holiness for a murderer.**

They said, give us murderers for our streets and for our children, and take away the Author of life!

Finally Acts 3:15

#### **4. You killed the author of life,**

In other words, **He gave you life** and you killed him.

**Peter's point in these four indictments is to paint in blazing colors the insanity of rejecting Jesus:**

Rejecting Jesus means death

Now Peter has awesomely good news

: Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

That's the essence of the sermon so far:

**FIVE EXALTATIONS OF JESUS  
AND  
FOUR DEVASTATING INDICTMENTS.**

(By the way, Acts 4:4 says that about 2,000 people are converted by this message!)

That's my first point -- the content of the word.

Now we turn to

#### **2) THE CONTENT OF THE WONDER.**

By the content of the wonder,

I don't merely mean that a crippled man was healed.

I mean HOW he was healed

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Verse 3 says that this lame beggar at the Temple asked for some alms.

Acts 3:4-5

Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" [5] So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

Then Peter says , Acts 3:6

"Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

He takes him by the hand and pulled him up and he is healed!

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## **NOW WHAT HAPPENED HERE?**

It wasn't magic,  
 Medicine  
 Sorcery,  
 Or Mind-over-matter

He says, Acts 3:12

"Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

Peter says it was not some power I possess

***This is a big problem today***

People believe that power is possessed by an individual

The truth is

Peter had no power to heal  
 Benny Hinn has no power to heal  
 Oral Roberts Has no power to heal

NOr does any other healing evangelist

\*

Peter goes on to say

Nor was it our godliness meaning religiousness (piety)

The point is

It was simply not a human act

**WHAT THEN WAS IT?**

In Acts 3:16 Peter explains

**BY FAITH in the name of Jesus,**

***this man whom you see and know was made strong.***

**It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him**

***that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.***

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First notice

That peter did have faith

**BUT THE MAN DID NOT,**

There is no reason in the text to think the man had any faith when Peter spoke)

It has been a false doctrine in our time that if you are not healed it is because you did not have enough faith.

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It is clear that faith is absolutely essential for healing to take place

James 1:6-7

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. [7] For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

But faith or trusting only prepares the field for the planting of the Lord

## THE HEALING CAME **THROUGH THE WORKING OF JESUS**

Acts 3:16 say

**. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him** that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

This, it seems to me, is the key to what happened in Acts 3:4

with the lame man.

**Luke tells us that this man was laid daily at the gate.**

So, Peter had passed this **man many times** before without healing him.

But today, when he looked at him something happened.

### **WHAT?**

The faith to heal him ***CAME* THROUGH JESUS**.

The living Jesus did something in Peter, and Peter knew it was the day.

When he said, "What I have I give to you," he was saying,

**"Today I have been given something special for you.**

**Or**

Jesus has just given me the faith to speak healing to you and I now share this gift with you.

Rise."

That's what the last part of verse 16 says,

"The faith, which is THROUGH Jesus (not in Jesus!) has given this complete healing

**Jesus gave the faith to heal, and Peter acted on it.**

SO When Peter said (v. 6), "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk,"  
**HE MEANT:**

"I am speaking the words, but Jesus is now healing you."

Now lets talk about

### **3) The relationship between the wonder and the word of God preached.**

The relationship between the wonder and the word is that the wonder attracts the crowd to hear the word (3:11)

and the wonder attests to the living truth of the exalted Jesus in the word.

That's why verse 16 follows verse 15:

Acts 3:15

You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

Acts 3:16

By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

the wonder attests to the word

In other words, the wonder is a powerful pointer to the truth that Jesus is alive and that he is all Peter says he is:

A the Servant of the Lord

A glorified by God

A the Holy and Righteous One  
 A the Author of Life  
 A raised by God from the dead

In an interview in *Christianity Today*, "Springtime for the Church in China," June 18, 1982, David Adney answers this question: "How do Christians witness and evangelise [in China]?"

□ The most basic form of evangelism is through personal friendships in which the gospel is shared with relatives and neighbours. The testimony of answered prayer, especially in healing the sick, has led many to faith in Christ.

In one of the large labour camps, a demented woman, whom no doctor or psychiatrist had been able to help, was placed in the same room with a Christian sister.

As a result of the Christian's loving care and prayer the woman was completely healed.

The whole camp realized that a living God had acted.  
 In an area where there were once 4,000 Christians

the number has now increased to 90,000 with a thousand meetings places.

Christians in that region give the following reasons for the rapid increase:

1. the faithful witness of Christians in the midst of suffering,
2. the power of God seen in healing the sick,

WONDER FOLLOWED BY  
 WORD,

= evangelism