

Acts Chapter 3 “In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth”

I. A Miracle (Verses 1-10)

1. Peter and John were walking by faith (1-4, 7-10)

- a) They were about the Lords work with their minds set upon Him
 - We shouldn't expect mighty things to be done through us if we are not people whose minds are on things above.
 - 📖 *Colossians 3:1-2* “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”
 - 📖 *Mark 9:28-29* “And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” 29 So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.”
- b) God gave them this gift of faith at just the right moment for His will to be done
 - 📖 *1 Corinthians 12:9* “to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit”

2. Not some *thing*, but some ONE! (5-6)

- a) We see here a lesson on priority in life. Are we looking for some thing or someone?
 - (i) Among classified ads in the Quay County Sun was this add: “Farmer w/160 acres wants marriage-minded woman w/tractor. When replying, please show picture of tractor.”
 - “No silver and gold? I thought they had faith!”
 - (i) There is a story about a humble monk walking with a Roman Catholic cardinal at a time in the Middle Ages when the Roman Catholic church was at its zenith of power, prestige and wealth. The cardinal pointed to the opulent surroundings and said to the monk, “We no longer have to say, silver and gold I do not have.” The monk replied, “But neither can you say, In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

II. Humility (Verses 11-12)

1. Glory to God

- a) This is one of the great reasons why God wants to work through us—so that He will get the glory.
 - 📖 *Matthew 5:16* “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

2. They acted in humility and immediately redirected attention away from themselves

- a) Unlike many televangelists today, these men had humility, and didn't take advantage of the situation for their own benefit.
 - They didn't run out and start their own healing ministries.
 - When God uses you say: “It isn't my power or Godliness”
- b) God will not share His glory.
 - 📖 *Isaiah 42:8* “I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another...”

3. They used the opportunity to share the message

- a) Saving faith can't come from miracles; it must come from the Word of God.
 - 📖 *Romans 10:17* “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

III. A Message (Verses 13-26)

1. In the name of Jesus we can have perfect soundness (13-20)

a) Recognize that you are a sinner (13-15a)

- We are the guilty ones
 - 📖 *Romans 3:23* “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
 - 📖 *Ecclesiastes 7:20* “For there is not a just man on earth who does good And does not sin.”
- One commentator says that the miracle of the speech of Peter is a far more wonderful one than the miracle wrought in the healing of the man who lay at the Beautiful Gate!

b) Believe that He died on the cross for you sins and rose from the dead. (15b-16)

- “In Semitic thought, a name does not just identify or distinguish a person, it expresses the very nature of his being. Hence the power of the person is present and available in the name of the person.” (Longenecker)

c) Don't make excuses (17)

- Ignorance is no excuse for breaking the law.
- (i) The following are actual quotes from accident reports submitted to various insurance companies by hapless policyholders: “The telephone pole was approaching fast. I attempted to swerve out of its path when it struck my front end.” *** “I had been driving my car for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had the accident.”. *** The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intentions. *** “The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran over him.” *** I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way. *** The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him. *** “An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car, and vanished.” *** I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment. -AIDE Magazine
- (ii) “He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else.” - Benjamin Franklin

d) Repent and be converted (18-19a)

- Turn away from sin toward God
- Conversion isn't just trying to do better, it's becoming a “new creation” and being “born-again”

e) Receive the Lord and “times of refreshing” (19b-20)

- This is what happens to a person physically, emotionally, and spiritually when they receive the Lord—times of refreshing!

2. The message is reliable, foretold by the prophets (21-26)

a) Moses testified that a special Prophet would be raise up

📖 *Deut 18:15, 18, 19*

b) The rest of God's prophets also foretold of Jesus

- Jesus fulfilled over 300 prophecies from the Old Testament!
 - 📖 *Luke 24:25-27* “Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”

c) Even back to Abraham God told us that through Jesus we would be blessed

📖 *Gen 12:3; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14*

3. The message is for us today

a) Let us receive the Lord's desire to make us completely whole and refreshed.