

SERIES:
SUBJECT:
READING:

Introduction:

As the transition of Acts took place the name of Moses was very important to the Jewish people and the emphasis early on in acts was still reaching the Jews with the Gospel;

As the transition continued the name of Jesus became more and more prominent. **The name of the Lord Jesus has all authority behind it,**

1. He is the Son of God ([Mat 28:18](#) And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**
2. Because His name is "**above every name**" (Phil. 2:9-11),
3. The great concern of the first Christians was that the name of Jesus Christ, God's Son, be glorified;
4. And for us today that same concern ought to be that the Name of Jesus be **honored**, spoken with **humility** and yet with **pride** that we are identified by the name of Jesus.

The transition is evident in the three stages in this healing, and each stage reveals something wonderful about Jesus Christ.

1. **Amazement: Jesus the Healer (Acts 3:1-10)**
2. **Indictment: Jesus, the Son of God (Acts 3:11-16)**
 - a. The healing of the lame beggar drew a crowd around the three men. Solomon's Porch, on the east side of the temple, was a corridor where our Lord

had ministered and where the early church worshiped.

- i. In his sermon at Pentecost, Peter had to refute the accusation that the believers were drunk.
 - ii. In this sermon, he had to refute the notion that he and John had healed the man by their own power.
 1. They were not drunk!
 2. They were not the source of healing!
 3. It was JESUS! The NAME OF JESUS!
 - iii. Peter immediately identified the source of the miracle—Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - iv. Wisely, Peter said that this was the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who brought about this healing THROUGH JESUS.
- b. They had denied Him and delivered Him up to be crucified.
- i. Peter used several different names and titles for our Lord: God's Son, Jesus, the Holy One, the Just One, the Prince (Pioneer) of life.
 - ii. This was no ordinary man that they had handed over to the Romans to crucify!
 - iii. Calvary may have been man's last word, but the empty tomb was God's last word.

- iv. He glorified His Son by raising Him from the dead and taking Him back to heaven.
- v. The enthroned Christ had sent His Holy Spirit and was working through His church.
- c. **The healed beggar was proof that Jesus was alive
IT WAS THE IT REFUTED THE
INDICTMENT THAT WINE HAD LOOSED
THEIR TONGUES AND THAT IS WAS
PETER AND JOHN WHO DID THE
HEALING!**

Act 3:16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

- i. It was in the name of Jesus that the healing took place;
- ii. It was in the power of Jesus that enabled the beggar to leap and run around in joy! .
- d. The true indictment was not drunkenness nor was it in the power of Peter and John!
 - i. **It was sin that condemned them, sin that crippled them and...**
 - ii. **It was only repentance and faith in Christ that delivered them!**

Act 3:17-19 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. (18) But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. (19) Repent ye therefore, and

be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

- iii. There must be conviction before a sinner can experience conversion. Unless a patient is convinced that he is sick, he will never accept the diagnosis or take the treatment.

3. **Encouragement:** Jesus, the Saviour (Acts 3:17-4:4)

- a. But Peter did not leave the people without hope. In fact, he almost seemed to defend them by pointing out that they had acted in ignorance Act 3:17 **And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.** while at the same time they had fulfilled the Word of God Act 3:18 **But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.**
 - i. Even sin done in ignorance must be repented of once they are revealed!

Act 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

- ii. Deliberate sins and the person who sinned presumptuously was a rebel against God and was guilty of great sin.

Heb 10:26-27 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, (27) But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

- b. What Peter told them two things one of which is the missing element in today's evangelism!
- i. First of all, they had to repent of their sins which means to have a change of mind about themselves, their sin, and Jesus Christ.
 1. Repentance is much more than "feeling sorry for your sins." **As the little Sunday School girl said, "It means feeling sorry enough to quit!"**
 2. Repentance is not "doing penance," it is a desire and willingness to turn from living in our sins and turn to living for God with His help apart from sin.
 3. The message of repentance was not new to the Jews, both John the Baptist and Jesus preached it!
 4. In one sense, repentance is a gift from God and in another sense, it is the heart's response to the convicting ministry of the Spirit of God.
 5. The person who sincerely repents will have little problem putting his faith in the Savior.
 - ii. Second, Act 3:19 **Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;**

1. This is exercise saving faith in Jesus Christ. The biblical message is "repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21), and the two go together.
2. Unless we turn from our sins, we cannot put saving faith in Jesus Christ.
3. It is unfortunate that some preachers have so ignored the doctrine of repentance that their "converts" lack a true sense of conviction of sin.
4. Balanced evangelism presents to the sinner both repentance and faith.

I sent you who have internet a link that is one of the best expositions of the biblical soul winning approach I have ever heard!

5. Peter announced what would happen if they repented and turned to Jesus Christ:

Act 3:19-21 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; (20) And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: (21) Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

- a. Peter alluded to the repentance and salvation that will occur in this present age

with the preaching of the
gospel; and

- b. The return of Christ that will
come at the end of this
church age!

c. **The best defense of the truth of the Christian
faith is a changed life.**

- i. The healed beggar was "Exhibit A" in
Peter's defense of the resurrection of Jesus
Christ.
- ii. In his evangelistic ministries, the Methodist
preacher Samuel Chadwick used to pray for
"a Lazarus" in every campaign, some "great
sinner" whose conversion would shock the
community.
- iii. God answered his prayers in meeting after
meeting as infamous wicked men trusted
Christ and became witnesses through their
changed lives.
- iv. You my friend may one of those "hard
cases" share your personal testimony and
see what God can do with it!

**Whenever God blesses, Satan shows up to oppose the
work and silence the witness; and often he uses religious
people to do his work.**

- a. The same crowd that opposed the ministry of Jesus
Christ also opposed the work of the Apostles, and
they will oppose our ministry today.

- b. Expect it—but don't let it stop you! The important thing is not that we are comfortable, but that the name of the Lord is glorified through the preaching of the Gospel.
- c. God has promised to bless and use His Word, so let's be faithful to witness.
- d. Jesus even prayed that our witness would have success (**Joh 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;** so we have every reason to be encouraged.
- e. There is power in the name of Jesus, so we need not fear to witness and call sinners to repent.
- f. The name of Jesus Christ still has power!

Conclusion:

While we may not perform the same apostolic miracles today that were seen in the early church, we can still claim the authority of Jesus Christ as He has instructed us in the Word. **Act 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

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