



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

Acts 3

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Some topics to guide your thoughts as you meditate on Acts 3

Chapter 3 includes: (a) First apostolic miracle of healing and (b) Peter's second sermon.

1. Introduction:

- Prayer (verse 1) – What do we know about prayer life of Jews, Jesus, First Church, Today's church?
- Temple (verse 1) Is this Solomon's Temple? Why did David want to build a Temple for God? What was inside the Ark of the covenant (Hebrews 9:4, I Kings 8:9, Exodus 16:32, 33, Numbers 17:10)? What does the Ark signify? Where is the Ark/Temple today? (Revelation 11:19, I Corinthians 6:19)

2. Healing (2-11) – How was the healing accomplished? What was the outcome of healing? How does lame man's experience parallel the experience of a converted sinner? How can we bring healing to others?

3. Peter's sermon (11-26) – What created the opportunity to share the sermon? What is Peter's approach/sequence in sharing the gospel message? What are 'times of refreshing'? How many were saved? What is the main point of Peter's sermon?

- Important Themes, Important Characters, and Lessons learned (*a work-in-progress question and we can continue to build the list as we meditate on the book*)

Prayer (verse 1) – What do we know about the prayer life of Jews, Jesus, First Church, Today's church?

Jews pray ...

- Pray 3 times: 9AM/12PM/3PM

+ *special occasion prayers*

- David (Psalms 55:17) Daniel (6:11)

- Prayers are structured & repetitive

- example, Amidha (19 benedictions/blessings)
- Repetition cultivates habit, but danger - can become a tradition and routine

- Focus of Prayers: Worship, Repentance, Thanksgiving for blessings, Healing, Justice, Jerusalem, Petitions (includes prayer for third temple, and Messiah)



Jesus prayed . . .

- Prayer a priority: prayed early in the morning (Mark 1:35), in evening alone (Matthew 14:23), all night in prayer (Luke 6:12)
 - Jesus sought to do God's will (John 4:34)
 - Jesus depended on God (John 5:19)
- Jesus prayed for everything
 - For example, before he chose his disciples, before healing Lazarus, before miracles, at the last supper, in the garden of Gethsemane, at the cross

Prayers of Early Church and Today's Church

- Early church prayed regularly (Acts 2:42)
 - Today's church is exhorted to ... pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17)
- How is the prayer life of Bethany (individual prayer, family prayer, and church prayer)?

Temple (verse 1) Is this Solomon's Temple? Why did David want to build a Temple for God? What was inside the Ark of the covenant? What does the Ark signify? Where is the Ark/Temple today?

First Temple

- Built by King Solomon in 957 BC in Mount Moriah
- Central piece: Ark of the covenant kept in the holy of holies
 - David's desire "I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God" (I Chronicles 28:2)
 - Contents of the Ark: golden pot with manna, tablets of stone, and Aaron's rod (Hebrew 9:4) (Exodus 16:32, 33, Numbers 17:10) Tablets of stone (I Kings 8:9)
- Destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar II in 587 BC (Chaldean dynasty, Babylon)
- Ark of the covenant lost (mentioned in Revelation 11:19)

The Ark of the Covenant



Second Temple/Herod's Temple

- **Second Temple** - Rebuilt under decree by Cyrus, King of Persia (Ezra 5:13)
- **Herod's Temple** - Significantly renovated and expanded under **King Herod** in 20 BC, destroyed in 70 AD by Romans. What's left of the Temple today is the wailing or western wall in Jerusalem
- **Today**: We are the temple (I Corinthians 6:9)
- **Eternity**: No Temple in Heaven (Revelation 21:22)



Healing (2-11) – Who were Peter & John? How was the healing accomplished? What was the outcome of healing? How does lame man's experience parallel the experience of a converted sinner? How can we bring healing to others?

The Healing of Lame Man

- Peter & John ... a powerful combination
 - Both were fisherman (Mathew 4:18-21)
 - Names ... John (James & John, sons of thunder Mark 3:17, Peter's name changed from Simon to Peter, Matthew 16:17, 18)
 - Peter is NOT the rock, Christ is the Rock ... I Corinthians 10:4
 - Both became part of the inner circle (Mathew 17:1)
 - Both received the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)

Lame Man

- He was 40-years old (Acts 4:22)
- Carried to the temple, Seated outside the temple (good location for beggars).
Lame cannot go inside the Temple
- No hope of healing
- Begging to meet basic survival needs... but Lord wanted to give him much more!

Peter's Response

- Peter notices the lame man and makes eye contact (verse 4)
- Peter has compassion on Him, Stopped on his way to Temple (like the good Samaritan)
- Peter does not have silver or gold, but offered what he had ... Jesus Christ

The Healing

- Healing occurred because of the power in name of Jesus (v.6)
- Healing was immediate (v.7), complete (v.16)
 - ... instant healing but God waited 40 years to perform the miracle.
- Healed physically and spiritually (v.8)
- Healing lead to wonder, amazement, and curiosity (v.10, 11)

Healing ... fulfillment of promise

- **John 14:** ¹² 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. ¹³ And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.
- **Mark 16:18** "... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"

Lame Man and Sinner

Lame Man

- Born Lame
- Outside Temple
- Seeking alms

Sinner

- Born Sinner
- Outside the Kingdom of God
- Seeking Material Blessings

Connecting with Jesus brings 'greater' Blessings Mathews 6:33

Instant Healing

Permanent Healing

Access to Temple

New Future

Witnessing/worshipping God

Instant Salvation, Acts 2:21

Permanent Salvation, John 10:29

Access to God, Hebrews 10:19

Spiritual Blessings, Ephesians 1:3

Witnessing & Worshipping God

Application: God can give us more!

- People may walk into church (our lives) looking for friendship but God can give much more.

- What is our condition? Are we lame or healed?
- What have we to offer others? (we cannot offer what we don't possess)? How can we bring healing to others?
- Peter's faithfulness in ministering to ONE lead to greater ministry opportunity ... we need to be faithful in small thing and God will bless us with more open doors.



Peter's Sermon

Acts 3:11-26

What created the opportunity to share the sermon?

What is Peter's approach/sequence in sharing the gospel message?

What are 'times of refreshing'?

How many were saved?

What is the main point of Peter's sermon?

**From Ministry to One to
Ministry to Many**

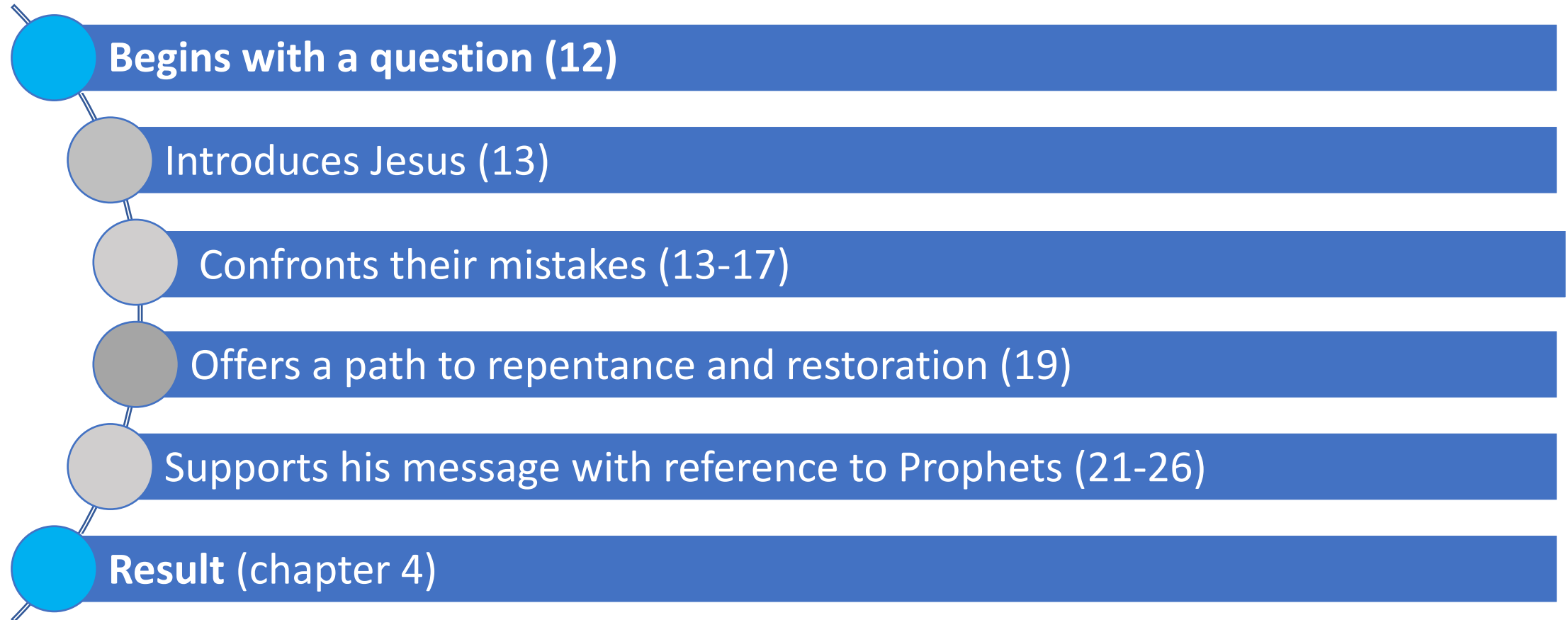
Peter's second sermon (verses 12-26)

- Sermon addressed to Jews
- Israelites are special ... 7-fold privileges of Jews (Romans 9:4-5)

“The people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple-worship and the promises.⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! ^(NIV)

Peter's Second sermon

– a good model for witnessing



Question

- In the first sermon, people asked question, “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37)
- In the second sermon, Peter asks the question “Why marvel ye at this” (3:12)

**Asking good questions
can lead to great conversation and outcomes!**

Who is Jesus?

- He is the Son of God
- It is the same God (God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) that they worshipped
- God raised Jesus up and glorified Him
- His name has power

Confronts their mistakes

- Response of Jews to Jesus ... rejected Him, denied Him, delivered him, crucified him, killed the “author of life”, traded him for a murderer!
- Jesus suffered
 - ... because of their ignorance (v.17, Luke 23:34, I Corinthians 2:8) and as fulfillment of prophecy (Psalms 22, Isaiah 53)

Offers a Path to Restoration

- **Repentance** can reverse the mistakes made and give a clean/new start (verse 19) (Acts 2:38)
 - “Repent ye therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out, when the time of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”
- What is ‘repentance’? What is ‘times of refreshing’?

Supports Sermon with Prophecies

- V.22 Prophecy of Moses about Messiah (Deuteronomy 18:15-19)
 - Warning: Those who refuse to hear will be destroyed
- V.24 - Prophecy of Samuel and other prophets also
- V.25 – Promise made to Abraham of “Seed” fulfilled in Jesus
- V.26 – Christ was born to bless them, but they rejected Him.
- There have been many prophets One day it will be too late (Luke 16:31)

Result of Sermon ...Chapter 4:4

Important themes/moral lessons/application

REVELATION + **A**PPPLICATION = **T**RANSFORMATION

Acts 1: Wait + Witness with the power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2: Repent & Be Baptized, and added to church

7 qualities of local church (most important ... Be Steadfast in Word. Prayer. Communion. Fellowship)

Acts 3:



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