

## Faith in Jesus Heals

**Acts 3:11-16** <sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

### ❖ Intro

#### ➤ **IN Acts 3 Luke continues to tell the story of the early church...**

- In Acts 3 we see the workings of the apostles and the response of the people
  - With this miracle of healing a lame man of over 40 years
- We see some filled with wonder
- And we see some opposition towards them

#### ➤ **This section continues for almost 2 chapters...**

- The man is healed, people are amazed,
- Peter Preaches Jesus, many more souls are added...
- Leaders question and warn them, Peter and John continue to preach Jesus,
- Then they praise God for what He has done...
- **All the way to the end of ch 4 where we see again that the early church**
  - Continued together and none had any need
  - **Acts 4:32-33** <sup>32</sup> Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

#### ➤ **Application:**

- The End result of this miracle is similar to that of the day when the tongues came upon them
- Many souls were saved

### ❖ Outline:

- 1) The Amazement of the People
- 2) The Glory is For God
- 3) The Blame is on the People
- 4) Jesus is to be Exalted
- 5) They are Eyewitnesses
- 6) Faith in Jesus Brings Healing

### ❖ The Amazement of the People

- <sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup> And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?"
- **So, We saw this last week.**
- **The Miracle brought amazement to the people**
  - They were filled with wonder... they were utterly astounded...
- **The reason for the miracle:**

- If you remember last week... We compared what happened here
- To what we have seen elsewhere in the Bible
- **We compared it to:**
  - John 5 and Jesus healing the lame man
  - Acts 2 and the coming of the Holy Spirit and the sign of tongues given to the disciples
- **For the Purpose of:**
  - Getting the attention of the people
  - Showing the glory of God
  - And then preaching and declaring Jesus Christ as the messiah
  - As the Savior of the world...
- **So this is where we pick up today**
  - The miracle has been done... and Peter is about to preach Jesus
- **Peter and John deflect the attention**
  - They tell the people that there is nothing in them or about them that brought this healing
  - **Not their power**
    - This is in reference to a supernatural power... some special power
    - Peter says... We are Not powerful
  - **Or their piety**
    - This is in reference to godliness or their keeping of the laws of God
    - Because they were such godly men, that they would be able to do such a miracle
    - Peter says, It is not our godliness

## ❖ The Glory is For God

- **<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus**
- **The God of Abraham**
  - Who called Abraham out of the land of Ur
  - And sent him into Canaan
  - And promised him the land their
  - Who protected him and led him
  - Who brought him a child in his old age
  - And told him that his children would be as numerous as the stars of the sky
- **The God of Isaac**
  - The child born of a promise
  - Born when his father and mother were way too old to be having children
  - The God who brought Isaac a lovely wife
- **The God of Jacob**
  - Who chose Jacob over Esau
  - Blessed Jacob and protected him
  - Helped his family grow
  - Through Jacob came Joseph
    - Whom God used to save the Family of Jacob and many other nations in famine
- **When Peter says this:**
  - He is referring to the God who called Himself the "I AM"
  - And led the young nation out of Egypt with many signs and wonders
  - And helped them defeat the enemies before them on their way into the land
  - That was promised to their forefather Abraham
- **What a great God...**

- Who deserves the glory
- Who would take mankind who had sinned and rebelled against him
- And be patient with them enough to work out a plan of redemption through them

## ❖ The Blame is on the People

- whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.

### ➤ Peter Hits them extremely hard:

- He knows his crowd...
- He is going to speak with them in a similar way as on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit came
- Acts 2:22-23 <sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

### ➤ Peter places the blame on them:

- **You delivered over**
  - Instead of embracing your savior...
  - You handed Him over to lawless men
  - They had arrested Him and taken Him to the Romans to be killed
- **You denied Him in the presence of Pilate**
  - You denied your God before the world
  - Throughout history their denial would be documented
- **Asked for a murderer to be granted to you**
  - Instead of grasping onto your God and Savior
  - Your king, Your maker...
  - You asked for Barrabas a murderer to be let free
  - Free to roam the streets of Jerusalem and take life again if He wanted to
- **You killed the Author of Life**
  - You are responsible for killing the Author of Life...
  - Instead of trusting in the one who brought about life
  - You were so demented and depraved
  - That you killed the author of Life
  - And then asked for a killer to be let free into your midst

### ➤ Wow...

- Peter really lowers the boom on these people
- And that would be hard to hear for anyone...
- Hard to bear as well...
- **But Peter loved them enough to point out their wrongs**
  - So they would see their need for God to forgive them.
  - Because Peter knew... That Jesus wants to forgive them
  - He knows Jesus said to His killers : **Forgive them for they know not what they do**

### ➤ Application:

- **The application is for us:**
  - We are pictured here people:
  - The whole world is represented at the death of Jesus
  - The sins of the Jewish people and the sins of the romans
  - The sins of the Russians and the Arabs

- And the sins of the Hispanics... Sins of the Asians
- And the sins of the melting pot Americans
- **Your sins and my sins were the cause of the death of Jesus**
  - They Jewish and Roman people of that time may get the credit for it all...
  - They may take much of the blame
- **But our rebellious nature starting with Adam and Eve brought about the death of the Author of life**
  - Our lies before God... Our lusting hearts and minds... Our harmful words
  - Our prideful ways that exalt ourselves over others
  - Our hatreds and murders
  - Our taking of things that do not belong to us
  - Our unbelief.... Our lack of faith
  - Our overall lazy and apathetic lives lived out apart from God
- **These sins and many more are the reason that Jesus had to come and die**
  - And we must take personal responsibility for our sins

#### ❖ Jesus is to be Exalted

- glorified his servant Jesus...<sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.
- **To make matters even worse for them:**
  - Peter doesn't just blame them for the death of some man named Jesus...
  - He blames them for the death of the Son of God
  - **And He begins to tell them exactly who it was that they delivered over**
    - And denied
    - And chose a murderer over
  - **Peter is going to not just blame them...**
    - But show them the depths of their sin and depravity
    - By glorifying the name of Jesus...
    - And telling them who He is...
- **Servant Jesus**
  - At the end of verse 13 he refers to Jesus as the servant of God...
  - And it seems He is referring back to the life of Jesus and the many times Jesus said
    - He had come to do the will of His Father
  - But there are also so old testament references to this servant of God
    - And I think He refers to Him here because the people would be familiar with the Servant
  - **Isaiah 40-53 God is speaking to Israel about His Greatness and how He will redeem them**
    - In Isaiah 42 "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.
    - **And then in Is 53 we see the suffering servant**
      - ◆ We have looked at this chapter a number of times... But so you know
      - ◆ It goes into great detail concerning the crucifixion of Jesus
      - ◆ And it is written about 750 years before Jesus was born
    - **In continuing what He is saying in reference to His Servant in ch 52...**
      - ◆ **God speaks through Isaiah and he says:**
        - ◆ Is 53:3-5 "He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. <sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed

for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

▪ **Even today the Jewish people struggle with those verses in Isaiah**

- Not rightly identifying who this servant is
- Often thinking He is speaking of their nation

▪ **But Peter identifies Him to them and says it is Jesus**

- This is who God has glorified...

➤ **Holy and Righteous One**

▪ Peter goes on to tell them that they had Denied the Holy And Righteous One

▪ Denied the Holy and Righteous One... Much like they had denied Holiness and righteousness

▪ **Holy One:**

- Separated unto God... comes from the word hagios...
- Which is also where we get the word Saints from..
  - ◆ After a person has been chosen by God... He makes them saints: Holy ones
- But Jesus was the Holy One... and Righteous

▪ **In Psalm 16:10 which Peter had already quoted in ch 2**

- Acts 2:27 **“For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.**

▪ **What is amazingly sad about all of this is that**

- They **deny** the Holy and Righteous One
- Yet... Even demons recognized who He was:
- In Luke 4:33-35 **“<sup>33</sup> And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, <sup>34</sup> “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” <sup>35</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!”**

▪ **The book of Hebrews refers to Jesus as:**

- Hebrews 1:8-9 **“But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness”**

▪ **Let us be sure that we do not leave this world without Holiness and Righteousness**

- The only way to enter into heaven is to be Holy and Righteous
- And the only way to be Holy and righteous
- Is by Faith in Jesus Christ
- Not by your own good works or piety...
- But by Faith in the Holy and Righteous One... who can make us Holy and Righteous

➤ **Author of Life**

▪ Then we see Peter refer to Jesus as the author of Life.

▪ **He says that they actually Killed the author of Life...**

- That was not a good move...
- That is worse than throwing out the cure to cancer
- Or getting enough money given to you to get out of any debt and then burning it

▪ **The killed the One thing they needed most...**

- Someone who could give them life after death

▪ Jesus says: John 11 <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**

▪ **John refers to Jesus:**

- John 1:3 **“<sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

- **The Author of Hebrews says of Jesus:**

- Hebrews 1:2 <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

- **Whom God Raised from the Dead**

- Good news here... the author of life didn't stay dead...
- He was raised...
- Because He has the power to do that...
- And this power of resurrection is given to all who follow Him...

- **Then Peter lets them know... this is not a fairy tale... We saw it**

- ❖ **They are Eyewitnesses**

- **To this we are witnesses.**

- He wants the crowd to know that they had first hand experience with all of this

- They saw Jesus after his death on the cross

- **John says it like this:**

- 1 John 1:1-3 "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup> the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—<sup>3</sup> that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you,"

- ❖ **Faith in Jesus Brings Healing**

- <sup>16</sup> And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

- **The Result of Faith: The man that you see and know has been made strong and given perfect health.**

- Faith in Jesus brought about this miracle

- **The Miracle Occurred: In the Presence of you all...**

- You all saw it

- **The Name of Jesus: Faith in His Name**

- **Peter says of this name:**

- Acts 4:12 <sup>12</sup> "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

- **Paul says of the name Jesus**

- Phil 2:9-11 <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- **Faith that is through Jesus**

- Only by believing in the life, death, resurrection and true nature of who Jesus is
- Can one truly have Faith in the name of Jesus
- **Faith that is through Jesus**
  - Gives Life Everlasting

- ❖ **Invitation**

- The invitation given by Peter

- IN just a few verses Peter is going to invite them to come to Jesus:

- Acts 3:19 <sup>19</sup> Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, <sup>20</sup> that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,