

Journey Through Acts
“In The Name Of Jesus Christ!”
Acts 3:12-26

Introduction:

1. On The Last Sunday Night We Were Together:
 - In Our ***Journey Through Acts***:
 - We Went With Peter & John:
 - To The Temple In Jerusalem:
 - And Met A Man Who Was “Lame From His Mother’s Womb!” (3:2)
 - And As He Sat:
 - On The Steps Just Outside The Gate Called Beautiful:
 - Begging & Asking Alms:
 - We Witnessed Through God’s Word This Amazing, Life-Changing Miracle:
 - 3:6-8 - “Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. / And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. / And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God!”
2. Well - This Miracle Astounded The Other Jews:
 - Who Were There At The Temple:
 - For Prayer & Worship:
 - And In 3:11 - They All “Ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon’s, greatly wondering!”
 - And - Once Again - God Gave Peter A Great Opportunity To Share The Gospel Of Christ To His Own People!
 - And So - Beginning In 3:12:
 - Peter Explains What Happened To The Lame Man:
 - By Pointing Them To:

1. *The Power Of God!*

- And That The Miracle They Saw Was:
 - All From God:
 - And Not Of Man!
- 3:12-16 - “And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? / 13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. / 14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; / 15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. / 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!”
 - Peter Explains That This Miracle:
 - Was Not Something ***They*** Could Do!
 - Instead, It Was Something:
 - That Jesus Christ Himself Had Done - Having Been “Glorified” By His Father
 - And Was Still Actively At Work From Heaven Above!
 - And As Peter Reminds Them:
 - About The Life & Death:
 - And Resurrection Of Jesus:
 - Whom They Killed - He Then Explains How This Gospel Was All Part Of:

2. *The Purpose Of God!*

- It Was To Bring Them To:
 - The Point Of Repentance & Conversion:
 - Through Faith In Jesus!
- 3:17-21 - “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; / 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!"

- Peter Explains That Jesus Christ Came:
 - So That They Could Experience For Themselves:
- "The Times Of Refreshing!" (2:19)
 - This Seems To Refer To:
 - The Experience That A Sinner Has:
 - When They Are Refreshed By The Grace Of God At Their Salvation!
 - The Overwhelming Relief & Rejoicing That Comes:
 - When You Know That The "Darkness Is Past" In Your Life, And "The True Light Now Shineth!"
 - But Peter Also Explains That Jesus Christ Left:
 - To Go Back To Heaven - Until:
- "The Times Of Restitution!" (2:20)
 - That Is - The Time When Everything:
 - Is Restored To God's Original Purpose & Design!
- And So:
 - Peter Calls On The People:
 - To Turn From Their Sin - In Repentance:
 - And Turn To Jesus:
 - For The Peace That He Offers:
 - As Well As To Prepare For His Second Coming In Glory!
- And Then - Peter Further Explains:
 - To Those Jews - How This Was All Part Of:

3. ***The Plan Of God!***

- 3:22-26 - "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. / 23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. / 24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. / 25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. / 26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities!"

- What An Amazing Message:
 - About The Forgiveness Of Jesus!
 - In Spite Of Their Rejection Of Jesus & Their Treatment Of Jesus:
 - He Was Still Sent To "Turn Them From Their Iniquities!" (3:26)
 - And In 3:25-26 - We See That They Were Still:
 - The Recipients Of:
- God's Special Communication!
 - As "The Sons Of The Prophets!"
 - And They Were Also The Heirs Of:
- God's Special Covenant:
 - To Be A Blessing To The World!
 - And They Also Experienced:
- God's Special Care!
 - "To You First" - Peter Says - "To Them First" God Sent:
 - Jesus:
 - To Pour Out His Favor:
 - Upon Them - And:
 - To Offer Forgiveness:
 - To Them!
- And So - Peter Explains:
 - That This Miracle Was To Display:
 - God's Own Faithfulness To Them:
 - And Not Just To The Lame Man!

* This Miracle Was Truly An Astounding Miracle!

- But I Want Us To Go Back To:

- 3:16 - Where Peter Explains:

- Both **How & Why** This Lame Man Was Healed!

- It Was Because Of Jesus - And Because - "His Name Through Faith In His Name Hath Made This Man Strong!"

- Now - In Biblical Times - The "Name" Of A Person Carried With It Much More Meaning Than Today - And The Word Was Often Used To Describe The Person Himself!

- And So - Really - It Was The Person:

- Of The Risen & Glorified Jesus - Who Wrought This Miracle:

- In This Man's Life!

- And It Was Accomplished Simply "Through Faith In His Name!"

- Now - This Could Refer:

- To The Faith Of The Lame Man:

- Because - As Peter Said To Him Back In 3:6 - "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!"

- It Probably Did Take Some Faith To Take Hold Of Peter's Outstretched Hand In Order To Stand! But It Would Have Been A Simple Faith & Faith In Its Infancy!

- But It Most Definitely Refers:

- To The Faith Of Peter & John:

- Which Had Become Strong & Well-Informed - Because They Knew Jesus Personally:

- And Had Seen Him In The "Power Of His Resurrection!"

- But Faith Is Not The Primary Focus Here!

- Because Faith Was The **Means**:

- And Not The **Cause** Of His **Cure**!

- Because It Was Only:

- "His Name" - The Name Of Jesus - That Could Accomplish Something Of This Magnitude!

- And As We Look A Bit More Into 3:14-15 - We Will See What Peter Saw About Jesus - And What Makes "His Name" So Special!

* First - "His Name" Points To:

1. The Majestic Nature Of Jesus!

- Because - According To 3:14 - Jesus Is The "Holy One!"

- Who They "Denied!"

- This Name Of Jesus Points To Him:

- As Sharing The Perfect & Pure Nature Of God!

- Because - It Was:

- A Messianic Name!

- In Psalm 16:10 - The Same Name:

- Is Used Of The Messiah - Who Would One Day Be Brought Back To Life From The Dead!

- "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption!"

- Jesus Was "The Holy One" Because:

- Jesus Was The Messiah! But Also - It Was:

- A Royal Name!

- In Psalm 89:18 - The Same Name:

- Is Used For Their King - "For the LORD is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king!"

- And Jesus Was "The Holy One" Because:

- Jesus Was Their King!

- And The "King Of Kings & Lord Of Lords!" - But Even More - It Was:

- A Divine Name!

- In The Old Testament Book Of Isaiah:

- The Name "Holy One" Is Frequently Used:

- To Refer To The One, True & Living God!

- Isaiah 43:15 - "I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King!"

- Isaiah 54:5 - "For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy

- One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called!”
- And This Is Who Jesus Is!
 - This Is What His Name Represents!
 - He Is ***“The Holy One!”***
 - He Is The Messiah! He Is Our King! And He Is God In The Flesh!
- And This Is What:
 - Peter & John & The Lame Man:
 - Believed About Jesus!
- We Too Must Recognize This Truth:
 - About Jesus - And Believe In Him As:
 - “The Holy One!”
 - Because To Have “Faith In His Name” Means That You Will Submit To:
 - The Majesty Of Jesus:
 - As Lord!

* Second - We Can See That “His Name” Also Points To:

2. ***The Moral Nature Of Jesus!***

- Because - Also According To 3:14 - Jesus Is The “Just One!”
 - Who They Also Denied!
 - This Too Is A Messianic Name That Points To:
 - His Qualification To Be Our Savior!
 - Zechariah 9:9 - “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation!”
 - Because “He Is Just” - He Is the Only One:
 - Who Can Substitute His Righteousness For Our Unrighteousness!
 - Because:
 - His Righteousness Is Inherent!
 - That Is - It Is Part Of His Nature!
 - In 1 Peter 1:18-19 - Peter Describes How We Are Redeemed - “With the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot!”
 - Jesus Is The Just One:
 - Because There Is No Blemish Or Spot In Him!
 - He Possesses:
 - The Righteous Nature Of God! &
 - His Righteousness Is Infinite!
 - All Throughout His Life - Jesus Was “Touched with the feeling of our infirmities” & “Was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin!”
 - And This Too Is Who Jesus Is!
 - This Too Is What His Name Represents!
 - He Is ***“The Just One!”***
 - He Is ***“The Lord Our Righteousness!”*** (Jeremiah 23:6, 16)
 - And He Was The Only One Qualified To “Once Suffer For Sins, The Just For The Unjust, That He Might Bring Us To God!” (1 Peter 3:18)
 - And This Is What:
 - Peter & John & The Lame Man:
 - Believed About Jesus!
 - We Too Must Recognize This Truth:
 - About Jesus - And Believe In Him As:
 - “The Just One!”
 - Because To Have “Faith In His Name” Means That You Will Surrender Yourself To:
 - The Righteousness Of Jesus!

* But We Can Also See That “His Name” Points Us To:

3. ***The Mighty Nature Of Jesus!***

- Because - According To 3:15 - Jesus Is The “Prince Of Life!”
 - Whom They Killed - But - “Whom God Hath Raised From The Dead!”
 - “Prince Of Life” - Here - Can Also Mean The Author As Well As The Captain Of Life!
 - In John 1:4 - We Are Told This About Jesus - “In him was life!”

- And Because Life Is Part Of The Very Nature Of Jesus:
- He Alone Can Provide Life!
 - He Is The Author & Creator:
 - Of All Life! Also:
- He Alone Can Restore Life!
 - Even To Those Who Are Dead!
 - Physically & Spiritually! John 14:6 - "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me!" Also:
- He Alone Can Reveal Life!
 - What Real Life Is! John 10:10 - "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly!"
- And This Too Is Who Jesus Is!
 - This Too Is What His Name Represents!
 - He Is ***"The Prince Of Life!"***
 - And Salvation Comes To Those Who Trust In ***His Life*** To Be ***Their Life!***
 - And This Is What:
 - Peter & John & The Lame Man:
 - Believed About Jesus!
- And We Too Must Recognize This Truth:
 - About Jesus - And Believe In Him As:
 - "The Prince Of Life!"

Conclusion:

1. Let Us Remember The Words Of Peter:
 - About The Name & Nature Of Jesus:
 - 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!"
 - May We Grow:
 - In Our Own Faith:
 - In The Name Of Jesus:
 - Like Peter & John & That Lame Man!
2. Because It Will Also Lead To:
 - A "Perfect Soundness" - Or "Health" - Maybe Not Yet In Body:
 - But A Spiritual Health & Testimony:
 - That Will Often "Preach" Louder Than Our Own Words!

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