

Acts, Sermon #7

Acts 3

In the first half of the chapter, a well known crippled man who begged at the beautiful gate was healed. That drew a crowd.

The people were filled with wonder and amazement, vs. 10. The second half of chapter 3, Peter preaches a sermon to the crowd that gathered, in vs. 12-26.

I've entitled today's message – **"The Blessing of Jesus"**

Acts 3:12

Let's stand for the reading of God's Holy Word

Acts 3:12-26

Let us pray

You may be seated

The Blessing of Jesus

His sermon was interrupted, Acts 4:1 but the part of the sermon they did hear brought them salvation in Christ, 4:4. How many of you folks believed on Jesus Christ through someone preaching a sermon?

What was the theme of Peter's 2nd sermon? Acts 3:26 summarizes the sermon.

Vs. 26

The subject of the sermon is God, the activities of God, what God is doing. This verse mentions 2 of those activities.

1. Raising His Son, vs. 26a
2. Sending Him to reach these people, vs. 26b

Why did God send His Son to these people who just a few months prior crucified His Son?

Vs. 26 – Why, to bless you. That is how good God is.

Application

So in spite of ourselves and our bad decisions and all our sins, God wants to bless us.

What does that blessing consist of, vs. 26c?

Those sins that send us to an eternal damnation, outer darkness, gnashing of teeth, God does not want that for these people nor does He want that today. God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

So, His great blessing is to turn us from our iniquities through the ministry of His Son Jesus Christ.

The Theme of this sermon is: "The blessing of being turned from sin."

How was that theme developed? Let's go back and look at the major points of the sermon, the structure of the sermon. Dissect the sermon

Vs. 12-18, is the first major point. Peter explains what God has done to provide that blessing.

... of being turned from our iniquities, but man has to respond. Vs. 19, the very first word is a command to the audience. The revelation of vs. 12-18 demands the response of vs. 19-26.

So the sermon has two major movements of thought:

1. What God has done to provide this blessing
2. What man has to do to procure that blessing

God provided it but we have to individually accept it.

Now, let's go through the sermon.

The first major point of the sermon will state 3 things that God has done to provide that blessing, 3 major activities of God.

1. God glorified His Son through the working of this miracle. Peter makes sure they understand that the miracle was not of him. Peter says in vs. 12, why are you looking at us? We didn't do it. It is not our power and it is not our holiness, vs. 12e.

What is the 2nd thing that Peter says God has done to provide the blessing?

2nd, vs. 15 – God raised Jesus from the dead

The honor God gives to His Son compared to the dishonor shown Him by the Jews

“God hath glorified His Son, vs. 13, whom ye..... (Read vs. 13-14)

God is great enough to counteract all human evil. They murdered the Prince of Life.

What did God do? He overcame their evil by raising His Son from the dead. He has done that so that we can procure salvation.

Vs. 15e, the apostles are just witnesses to the fact that the Son is raised indeed.

Peter is working back in time, started with the miracle, then the resurrection.

Now **3rd**, vs. 18, God fulfilled what He foretold about Christ Messiah's suffering.

Vs. 17, you did not understand that what you were doing was actually the fulfillment of what God said the Messiah would endure.

Vs. 18, He hath fulfilled by the actions of the Jews. Just because God knew what they would **do** doesn't make God responsible for their actions. They are responsible for their actions.

Jesus Christ suffered in order to pay the penalty for our sin. Either we receive Him as our Savior who suffered for our sin or we'll have to suffer for our sins. He paid for them so we don't have to!

God has done **3 things** to provide the blessing:

1. Glorified His Son by healing the crippled man
2. Raised His Son from the dead
3. Fulfilled the suffering of His Son

Now, what must man do after God has acted in this way?

Vs. 19, two things, repent and be converted. **Repent** – change your mind about Jesus Christ. **Be converted** – literally means, turn around and believe on Christ; a turning to the Light.

A turning away and a turning to

Look at verse 19. If man will respond with repentance and conversion, their sins will be blotted out, vs. 19, wiping clean.

God can wipe them away. God can do that. My sins are gone.

So that the times of refreshing; spiritual refreshment that comes when God revives a soul.

We get our sins blotted out and all of a sudden, we are revitalized and refreshed in the human spirit. I've heard testimony that when people have received Christ, a load, a weight was just lifted off of their shoulders.

But the real refreshment will be when He comes to the earth in the Millennial Kingdom.

Vs. 20-21 – He is going to send Christ.

Wipe away their sins, refresh their spirit and someday when the time is right, in the plan of God, He will send Christ

The Jews need to repent and believe in Jesus Christ.

It is further argued in vs. 22-26.

There are **3** arguments.

First of all, the argument of Scripture, vs. 22a, Moses truly said, Deut. 18:

That prophet is Jesus Christ, vs. 22bc, and what happens if they do not receive that prophet, vs. 23 – destroyed.

People literally are a heart beat away from being destroyed eternally if they have never received Christ as their Savior

Vs. 24, Peter is arguing from the O.T. scripture; **receive** Christ and have blessings; **reject** Christ and have cursings.

The **second** argument, vs. 25, is the covenant that God made with Israel with Abraham and Abraham's seed, that all the kindred of the earth shall be blessed. So he brings in the covenant.

The coming of a descendant who would be a blessing to all peoples of the earth

Then in vs. 26, lastly, he argues from their privilege. Vs. 26, Unto you first, the chosen people, you Jews first. Still today the nation of Israel is hardened in her unbelief. Unto her first, God sent His Son.

Acts 3:26

He causes us to turn away...from...iniquities. This is the essence of repentance. And that is what Peter said, "repent", Acts 3:19.

Do you understand the structure of the sermon now? This sermon is essentially saying this.

God wants to bless you through His Son, by turning you from your iniquities. God has done certain things to make that possible and you need to do certain things to procure that salvation yourselves.

Natural question – have we repented and turned to Christ so that our sins may be blotted out? **That's a sermon!**

Let's look at this sermon again.

Folks, did you notice how theological this sermon is? Peter brings together the strands of so many facets of the doctrines of God.

God's covenant, vs. 13 & 25

God's relation to the Son, vs. 13, 15, 18, 20, & 26

God's inspiration of the prophets, vs. 18 & 21

Dispensation of God, vs. 19-21

God's ultimate redemption, vs. 21

Individual salvation, vs. 26

Peter had weaved all that together so precisely in just a couple of verses and he is doing it in a gospel appeal. The test of ones knowledge is how simple he can explain deep stuff.

#2. Did you notice the Christological nature of the sermon? Listen to what Peter said about Jesus Christ.

Christ is God's Son, vs. 13 & 26

Christ is the Holy One, vs. 14

Christ is the Just One, vs. 14

Christ is the Prince of Life, vs. 15

Christ is Resurrected, vs. 15

Christ is the Suffering Messiah, vs. 18

Christ is the Savior in Heaven, vs. 21

Christ is coming again, vs. 20

Christ's present work of turning men from sin, vs. 26

Now this message is to lost people. It is filled with theology. Preachers today need to know the Word, need to precisely, clearly, accurately give truth to the lost and the saved.

And **thirdly**, it is confrontational. It is very personal.

- Peter tells them what they have done. You murdered the Author of Life and
- It is exhortational. He tells them what they need to do. Repent and be converted.

Repent is a word that the church is afraid of today.

- John the Baptist preached it, Jesus Christ preached it, Peter is preaching it and Paul preached it.
- We need to repent; to change our mind about Christ, about God, about my life, about my sin, about eternity.
- Repent; and turn to (be converted), turn to, turn to, turn to.....Christ.

This is what sinners need to be told. That's what they need to do. Respectful way He spoke to them, reassuring way, conciliatory way, vs. 17

This kind of preaching will bring people to Christ. Don't sugar coat the preaching. This is not come to Jesus and He will make all your dreams come true.

Let's stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed.

Will you come to Christ this morning?

Will you repent and be converted right now.

They were commanded to do this. They were not to take a long time deciding. It was commanded and therefore should be done immediately. They did not need to go home and think about it. It was God's command, and it was their immediate need.

Are your sins blotted out? If not, repent of them, turn from them and turn to Jesus Christ who suffered and died and rose again for you.