

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Acts 3:17-21.**

“And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. [18] “But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled. [19] “Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; [20] and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, [21] whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

B. Many have heard about Peter's first sermon (Ac. 2). But Peter gave another sermon (Acts, chapter 3).

C. This morning's lesson looks at what prompted this sermon and what Peter said.

II. JESUS, THE GREAT HEALER.

A. Scripture text: Acts 3:1-10.

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth *hour*, the hour of prayer. [2] And a certain man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. [3] And when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms. [4] And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, “Look at us!” [5] And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. [6] But Peter said, “I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-- walk!” [7] And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. [8] And with a leap, he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. [9] And all the people saw him walking and praising God; [10] and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to *beg* alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

B. Peter is not only a preacher but he is a personal worker. If we want to be effective in our preaching we must be working with people.

C. Since the giving of alms (a gift of mercy to the poor) was important to the Jews, it was profitable for beggars to be around the temple.

D. Peter and John could not give him money, but gave Him what he really needed, the ability to walk.

E. The lame man began to leap and walk, and the miracle became evident to everyone.

III. JESUS, THE CHRIST (Ac. 3:11-18).

A. Peter now uses the opportunity to preach the truth about X. This is exactly how we are to work with benevolence and evangelism today. Benevolence and personal work opens doors by which we can teach others about their spiritual needs.

B. Peter mentions the following in his remarks:

1. The healing is not been done by their own power (3:11,12).

And while he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement. [12] But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?”

2. The same God that sent Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob has sent Jesus (3:13).

“The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, *the one* whom you delivered up, and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.

3. You have killed Jesus, the Prince of life, the Holy and Righteous One (3:14,15).

“But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, [15] but put to death the Prince of life, *the one* whom God raised from the dead, *a fact* to which we are witnesses.

4. But God has raised this Jesus from the dead (3:15).

but put to death the Prince of life, *the one* whom God raised from the dead, *a fact* to which we are witnesses.

5. It is by the power of the resurrected X, that this lame man was healed (3:16).
 “And on the basis of faith in His name, *it is* the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.
 6. You (along with the rulers) have acted in ignorance, which is not excusable (3:17).
 “And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.
 7. God’s plan which has been announced to you (in the Law) was fulfilled (3:18).
 “But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled.
- C. Peter establishes the deity of X. He stresses the fact that as God has raised Him from the dead, thus establishing the resurrection.

IV. JESUS, THE PROMISED MESSIAH (Ac. 3:19-26).

- A. Peter continues his remarks and tells the people what to do:
1. Peter tells the people to repent. Notice the similarities between 3:19 and 2:38.
 (Ac 3:19) “Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;
 (Ac 2:38) And Peter *said* to them, “Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<u>Acts 3:19</u> a. Repent. b. Turn again. c. Sins may be wiped away. d. Times of refreshing.	<u>Acts 2:38</u> a. Repent. b. Be baptized. c. For the remission of sins. d. Receive the gift of the HS.
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 2. God has announced a period of restoration which is the coming of the church. All the prophets have spoke of this time. These prophecies are fulfilled in the first century (Ac. 3:20,21).
 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, [21] whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.
 3. Just as those who were disobedient to Moses were killed, all who are disobedient to the one Moses spoke of, will be killed (Ac. 3:22,23).
 “Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED in everything He says to you. [23] ‘And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’
 4. The OT prophecies point to the establishment of the church, not a future kingdom (Ac. 3:24).
 “And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and *his* successors onward, also announced these days.
- B. Peter preaches a message of obedience to X. He tells them that Jesus is to be obeyed, just as Moses was obeyed. God has sent this very special Servant into the world so that the world would be blessed as they turned from their wicked ways (Ac. 3:25,26).
 “It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’ [26]
 “For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one *of you* from your wicked ways.”

V. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. What have we learned from Acts, chapter 3 and Peter’s second sermon? We have seen that:
1. Personal work (benevolence) is to be used to interest people in the gospel message.
 2. Jesus is the Christ. He is the One in God’s plan to save the world.
 3. All people are to be obedient to God’s special servant, Jesus.
 4. All people are to repent and return to God for the forgiveness of their sins.
- B. Peter’s second sermon, like his first demands a response.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.