

The First Day of the Rest of the Church's Life....

Acts 3.1-26

1st Church of Risen Lord Jesus X begun > filled w Holy Spirit!

How does New-Born, Spirit-Filled, Pentecostal-Power Church Behave??

1. Ministry / 2. Miracle / 3. Message

1. Ministry

a. Common Place – Seems a bit SURPRISING! > went to Prayer Mtg!

v. 1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.
(= 3 in the afternoon)

Went to PRAY – Blessings from God / THEM and OTHERS

1000's Other JEWS need to KNOW Jesus as their MESSIAH

Apostles knew Gospel to JEW First > Went to Temple / Synagogues

// Luke Vol 1: Jesus on EARTH / Vol 2: Jesus in HEAVEN

Luke 2: Baby Jesus taken by PARENTS for Dedication @ TEMPLE

Acts 3: LEADERS of Newly Formed church come to TEMPLE

Jesus TAUGHT in the Temple – Jesus CLEANSED this Temple

Bldg just SHADOW: Jesus says He Himself is TEMPLE – Meet w/ God

b. Collaboration > Team Ministry

vs. 1-4 Peter and John were going up to the temple...a man lame from birth was being carried...Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us."

Peter & John > Partners in Fishing Business > Team: Fishers of Men

RAN Together into Empty TOMB > Run to Announce GOOD NEWS

Walking 2 x 2 to PRAY, WORSHIP, SERVE the Risen Lord Jesus

JESUS MODEL: Sends Disciples out in PAIRS

Why? Fear, Loneliness, Discouragement, Lack of Perspective, Balance, Accountability, Protection, Extra Eyes & Ears, Companion Fares!

Have CLOSE CHRISTIAN FRIENDS?? Soul-Mates? Prayer Partner?

c. Compassion > SPIRIT of Jesus > SENSITIVITY of Jesus

v. 2 gate called Beautiful Gate >1 of 9 gates, 25 m. Hi, Corinthian Brass

Almsgiving Act of MERIT for JEWISH > Beggar CENTRAL Location

MAIN ENTRANCE, Most People > APOSTLES = MOST RISK

BEGGAR was DESPISED > SEEN as OUTCAST, CURSED by GOD

I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. Psalm 37.25

THUS, This CRIPPLED BEGGAR Must NOT be RIGHTEOUS

Crippled Beggar Not Come to GOD > Sit at GATEWAY of TEMPLE

Jesus Noticed Lepers, Widows, Beggars, Outcasts > Stopped, Cared

v. 4 Then Peter said, "Look at us!" > EYE CONTACT with BEGGAR?!

When MOST PEOPLE see BEGGAR > Want to BECOME INVISIBLE

Acts 2.45 “distributing their proceeds to all, as any had need”

4.34 “there was not a needy person among them”

v. 7 PETER took him by the right hand and raised him up

Ap to Jews, Chief Preacher > Pastor of 3000 Member Church > TIME?

Servant of Jesus, Not Too Big & Important – Show Compassion of Jesus

Lame Man becomes Whole/ Beggar made Rich - Joy in Lord’s House

d. Confidence > LIVE w/out FEAR, and GIVE with FAITH

vs. 6,7 Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”

Peter saw Jesus take Jairus’ Daughter by the Hand > Power, Healing

Church Nothing Else to Trust IN > Except POWER of RISEN JESUS

Money NOT Save His SOUL or HEAL his BODY > NAME of Jesus

Story Middle Ages > Theologian Thomas AQUINAS visiting ROME

Walk thru Vatican City w R.C. CARDINAL: Gave Beggar Silver Coin

Card: ‘Well, Thomas, we can no longer say, “Silver & gold have I none”

Thomas: ‘true, & we no longer say “In the name of Jesus...walk”

2. Miracle

WORLD is Skeptical about Miracles > Hard to Prove, Different Opinions

Many Xtians GULLIBLE – Eager to Believe any Claim about Miracle

Too Quick to tell Something Uncertain > Bring DOUBT to GOSPEL

Want something CERTAIN to Tell World > JESUS and BIBLE!

Miracles RARE in Bible > Work of God > Point to WORD of God

Abraham said to Rich Man in HADES, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' (Rich Man) said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'" Luke 16.30,31

a. Spontaneous

Healing in BIBLE > NEVER Scheduled, Always SPONTANEOUS

NOT "next Wednesday night Apostle Peter will have Healing Service"

Today: Holy Spirit HEALING Meetings Scheduled MONTHS in Advance

Never in Hospital Wards: Big Auditorium, Collect BIG OFFERINGS

Divine Appointment > as Peter & John Arrived > Man also Carried IN vs. 2,3 man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple

b. Successful

vs. 9,10 people... recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate

NOT Hired Actor for Apostle PETER'S HEALING MINISTRY, INC.

4.22 man who was healed was over forty years old

Spindly Legs, Ankle w/ NO Strength > BOUNCING like POGO Stik

vs. 7,8 ... immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God

Dr Luke, Physician – Vivid Descriptions / Truly Lame / Truly Walks

God Not Limited by Our Limitations > HE IS ABLE to Heal

c. Sign > Pointed to ONE who Heals > Authenticates Message

2.43...many wonders & miraculous signs were done by the apostles

MIRACLES of God are connected to MESSAGE of God

MIRACLES in Early Church > CONFIRMATION of Truth of MESSAGE

v. 6 "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

Why THIS Miracle Recorded by Luke?? 1. Sermon 2. Start of Persecution

vs. 9,10 all the people... were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him

WONDER and Amazement NOT SAME as REPENTANCE and FAITH

One thing to be Surprised by Jesus > Another to Submit & SERVE Him

MIRACLES can Draw Crowd > DON'T Always make CONVERTS

3. Message

Eager Apostles: Every Gathered Crowd is Opportunity to PREACH

a. Step One: Miracle Explained

Similar reaction to Shock of Events of Pentecost – chapter 2

Crowd in Jerusalem asked “What does this mean?” – Not DRUNK!

vs. 12 “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?”

WHY are you SURPRISED? We are talking about GOD Here!

Power > People think Power comes from INSTRUMENT of Healing

Peter Pointed to OMNIPOTENT God > Power Eternal, Covenant God

v. 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers

PIETY > Healers are HOLY MEN, Miracles from THEIR Piety

JESUS is v. 14 ...the Holy and Righteous One...

God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob – God revealed Father, Son, Holy Spirit

Central CLAIM of Christianity > GOD has come into world in JESUS

Only HOPE for Real Peace: HAMAS or Hawaii > Jesus Prince of Peace

Notice Peter’s 1st ref to Jesus: v. 13 “glorified his servant Jesus”

PARADOX of Gospel – One in Highest Place went the LOWEST

Way UP is way DOWN – None of Us has Easy time with THAT!

SERVANT who was Crucified > NAME that SAVES & HEALS

v. 16 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.

Jesus HEALED while on EARTH > Continues to HEAL from HEAVEN

b. Step Two: You are Guilty for Rejecting Jesus

Servant that God GLORIFIED they CRUCIFIED

ROMAN that you all HATE – Gov PILATE – more INNOCENT than U

v. 13 Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when *he had decided to release him*. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life

If this is PETER'S last Sermon – He will be FAITHFUL to God's Truth!
 Jews WAITING 2000 yrs for Messiah – Abe > Isaac “God will provide”
 Uniquely PRIVILEGED Generation > Emmanuel walked among Them
 He healed, loved, fed multitudes, cleansed lepers, rose the dead!

c. Step 3 – Hope of SALVATION for Messiah-SLAYERS like US!

v. 17,18 And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

You should be SORRY – but also know that God is SOVEREIGN!

Jesus Death was DETERMINED by the Foreknowledge of God

John in Rev > LAMB slain from BEFORE Foundation of Earth

Yet, God's Sovereignty does not ERASE Human Responsibility

1) Demands Repentance > Temple turns into COURT Room > Guilty

v. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God = Turn Away from Former Life

Peter's Confronts Listeners w/ SERIOUSNESS of their GUILT

NOW they MUST REPENT or they can NEVER REPENT!

OT: UNintentional Sins be Pardoned, WILLFUL Sins Could NOT Be

Conspiracy > Jews / Cross > Romans / Curse > Sins of Whole World

We are all to blame for the death of Christ in one way or another. Even though we were not there at the time Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified, it was our sins that took him there.

James Boice

v. 26 When God raised up his servant, *he sent him first to you* to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.

IF Jews MISS this Opportunity > PLACE will be LOST to GENTILES

High Priest: "You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood."
 Acts 5.27

Either GUILTY of His Blood > or RECEIVE GRACE thru HIS BLOOD

Step 4 – Receive Full Salvation – Now and Forever

v. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out

Ancient writing was upon papyrus, and the ink had no acid in it. It therefore did not bite into the papyrus as modern ink does; it simply lay on top of it. To erase the writing a man might take a wet sponge and simply wipe it away.
William Barclay

God our Savior > Wipes our SLATE Clean with the BLOOD of Christ

v. 19 Repent: **turn to God** = Flee to God/ City of Refuge/Killers Pardone

WORD that LIFTED Man's PARALYSIS, LIFTS their Burden of SIN

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared. Psalm 130.3-4

v. 17 Now, *brothers*, I know you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders.

Restored – New FAMILY: BROTHERS > Peter DENIED Jesus TOO!

v. 25 And *you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant* God made with your fathers.

Christ has Already Restored Everything by His Death & Resurrection

Full Effect Not YET Seen > Redemption in PROGRESS NOW

Last Days begun and will Come > v. 21 He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets

vs. 19,20 ...that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus

REFRESHING? Only GOD Himself can do that > Find Him in Them

If people are not aware of the foundational factors of the gospel, so basic to Christianity, they are headed for a warped Christian experience... Those who see Christianity primarily as the answer to personal problems will find it difficult to continue in the path of obedience when they see no immediate solution to their problems. By contrast, one whose life is founded on the eternal realities of the gospel knows that even in the darkest night, those realities remain unchanged.

Ajith Fernando

MIRACLE Points FORWARD to Great Day of Salvation

One Day – Lord of Glory will Appear – Full Manifestation of Salvation

No More Lameness – No Poverty – No Sickness > All Leap for JOY

Be strong, do not fear; your God will come... Then will the lame leap like a deer Isaiah 35.4-6

Walking and Leaping and Praising the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Acts 3.¹Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. ¹¹While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹²And 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? ¹³The 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. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. ²²Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' ²⁴And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. ²⁵You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' ²⁶God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

Prayer of Confession

Walking and leaping and praising God! Awesome God, we rejoice in your compassion and power. This brother - whose name we will learn one day - has reminded us how much you have done for each of us. Even when our feet work, we are still lame and feeble. Our power, even at full strength, falls short of what you want from us – and what we know we need – righteousness, holiness, truth, and peace.

How grateful we are, Heavenly Father, that you sovereignly passed by and saw our infirmity. We receive gifts far greater than silver and gold, your healing, hope, and holiness. Give us grace to

repent and turn back daily, so that our sins may be blotted out. May times of refreshing come from your presence, O Jesus, Holy and Righteous One.

Prayer of Repentance and Refreshing

Risen Jesus, how thankful we are to live in these last days. We hear your message as the Prophet greater than Moses. We know your presence as the beloved Son of Abraham and Son of God. Like Samuel, not one word of yours will fall to the ground. Author of Life, keep us serving and trusting you as we await the time you will restore all things, by your everlasting glory. Amen.