

Acts 3.1-26

Gold Refined

Last Week a Gunman entered a One-Room Amish Schoolhouse in Penn, USA
Tragedy Ended with ___ Children, and the Gunman Dead > USA Stunned

Surprised NY Times reporter found ‘backward’ Amish calm and coping....

The Amish are the descendants of Swiss and German immigrants who came to the United States in the 18th century, many to escape persecution... They accept tragedies as the will of God, an approach to life they call yieldedness. This helped explain why the Amish interviewed after the shooting in Nickel Mines, Pa., sounded more resigned than angry. They are pacifists, and some spoke of the need to forgive the killer.

In one sign of their approach to tragedy, Amish residents started a charity fund yesterday not only to help the victims’ families but also to help the gunman’s widow.

“This is imitation of Christ at its most naked,” said journalist Tom Shachtman. “If anybody is going to turn the other cheek in our society, it’s going to be the Amish.” He continued, “I don’t want to denigrate anybody else who says they’re imitating Christ, but the Amish walk the walk as much as they talk the talk. For the families who lost children, there will be a tremendous community outpouring of love and support. They will not suffer alone in their grief at all. People will bring in meals for weeks. As devastating as this is, there’s so much strength they can draw from their community.”

Laurie Goodstein

New York Times, October 4, 2006

Many Amish trying to Replicate GREAT CHURCH described in Acts 2
Acts chs. 3 – 5 > SHARING with Christ leads to SUFFERING with CHRIST

REVELATION > SUFFERING in SYMBOLS > Dragon, Babylon, Beasts
ACTS > REALITY – Flesh and Blood STRUGGLE > PERSECUTION

World HOSTILE to GREAT CHURCH, esp GOD and SAVIOR, Jesus Christ
NO Surprise > HOSTILITY Manifest in NAILING Lord and Messiah to Cross

1. Ministry

2. Miracle

3. Message

1. Ministry

a. Collaboration > Team Ministry

vs. 1-4 Peter and John were going up to the temple...a man crippled from birth...he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!..."

Peter & John > PARTNERS in Fishing Business > TEAM as Fishers of MEN
RAN Together INTO Empty TOMB > Run to ANNOUNCE GOOD NEWS

RARE Occurrence in Acts > MINISTRY done SOLO > Philip w/ Ethiopian
NORMAL in ACTS > Ministry in PAIRS or More Often TEAMS

Peter > SIX Men to House of Cornelius > Maybe BODY GUARDS!?
Paul > Traveling Team > INCLUDING LUKE > Several 'WE' sections of Acts

Even when TEAMS Disagree / SPLIT > More NEW TEAMS are FORMED

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

JESUS MODEL: The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. Luke 10.1

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work:
If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls
and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep
warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered,
two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4.9-12

Do YOU have CLOSE CHRISTIAN FRIENDS?? Soul-Mates? Prayer Partner?
Old Adage > **Best way to MAKE a Friend is to BE a Friend**

Single Friend in Hawaii Lives Alone: Visiting, 'My Phone Never Rings'
CAN YOU CALL ANYONE on your Phone? Make Someone's Phone Ring!
Join a SMALL GROUP!

b. Compassion > SPIRIT of Jesus > SENSITIVITY of Jesus

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

Man BORN BLIND – DISCIPLES ask JESUS:

"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" John 9.2

The LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron: 'For the generations to come none of your descendants who has a defect may come near to offer the food of his God...no man who is...lame...no man with a crippled foot or hand... because of his defect, he must not go near the curtain or approach the altar, and so desecrate my sanctuary.'" Leviticus 21.16-23

CLOSEST Crippled Beggar Comes 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

v. 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up

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

Servant of Jesus, NOT Too Big and Important – Show COMPASSION of Jesus

LAME Man Now WHOLE/ BEGGAR made RICH - JOYFUL in Lord's House

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

v. 1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer

Public BLAMING of Authorities for MURDER of Jesus of Nazareth not SAFE
Followers of NAZARENE > Safer to hide in CAVES // QUMRAN Community

v. 2 the temple gate called Beautiful > 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

vs. 6,7 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up....

Peter had SEEN Jesus TAKE Jairus' Daughter by the Hand > Power, Healing

Now by his Name Jesus revealed himself and drew near to heal, eliciting trust and imparting strength. Dennis Johnson

Church NOTHING Else to TRUST IN > Except POWER of RISEN JESUS

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

Story from MIDDLE AGES > Theologian Thomas AQUINAS visiting ROME
Walking thru City with R.C. CARDINAL > who gave BEGGAR Silver COIN
Cardinal: 'Well, Thomas, we can no longer say, "Silver & gold have I none"
Thomas: 'How true, & we can also no longer say "In the name of Jesus...walk"

v. 6 what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus... > WILLINGNESS
WE SHOULD BE WILLING TO SHARE WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US

The power was Christ's, but the hand was Peter's. Thomas Walker

ALL is FROM God, ALL is FOR God

When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

2. Miracle

a. Spontaneous

Some Churches > MIRACLE is part of MINISTRY > MIRACLE CENTERS!

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 *Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate...
When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.*

b. Successful

vs. 9,10 the people... recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging

NOT Actor HIRED for the APOSTLE PETER'S HEALING MINISTRY, INC.

The man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old. Acts 4.22

Spindly LEGS, ANKLES w/ NO STRENGTH > BOUNCING like POGO Stik

vs. 7,8 ...instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

Dr Luke, Physician – Vivid Description – Truly LAME, just as TRULY Walks WHEN God wants to HEAL > HE IS ABLE > Not Limited by Our Limitations

c. Sign > POINTED to ONE who HEALS > AUTHENTICATES Message

...many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles Acts 2.43

Acts of Peter Apostle to Jews	Peter & Paul: Chief Apostles in Acts	Acts of Paul Apostle to Gentiles
3.2	Healing of a Lame Man	14.8
5.15 (shadow)	Healing Power	(kerchief) 19.12
5.16	Exorcist	16.18
8.18	Confronted Sorcerer	13.6
9.36	Raised the Dead	20.9
10.9	Commissioned to Gentile mission by Vision	22.17-21

Why THIS ONE Recorded by Luke?? 1. Sermon 2. Start of PERSECUTION

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

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 a CROWD > But DON'T Always make CONVERTS

3. Message

Peter could have INTERVIEWED Healed Man > TESTIMONIAL Service
Instead Peter GIVES TESTIMONY of JESUS the HEALER

EAGER APOSTLES: Every Gathered Crowd is OPPORTUNITY to PREACH

a. Deflects Glory

vs. 11,12 While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us *as if by our own power or godliness* we had made this man walk?"

POWER > People think POWER comes from INSTRUMENT of Healing

Attention POINTED to OMNIPOTENT God > ETERNAL, COVENANT God

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

GODLINESS > Healers are HOLY MEN, Miracles from THEIR PIETY

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

Jesus who HEALED while on EARTH > Continues to HEAL from HEAVEN

v. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

“The Acts of the Exalted Jesus done in the Power of the Holy Spirit
through His Apostolic Church”

...through God's mercy we have this ministry...For we do not preach ourselves,
but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

2 Corinthians 4.1,5

b. Declares Jesus > Apostle to JEWS, Much OT THINKING about JESUS

Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the
Prophets and the Psalms.

Luke 24.44

WHOLE OT Bears Witness to JESUS and the CHURCH > FULFILLMENT

1) Titles

Real Man: v. 6 Jesus Christ of Nazareth

Life Giver: v. 15 the author of life

Living One: v. 15 God raised him from the dead.

Object of Faith: v. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus

Source of Faith: v. 16 faith that comes through him

Healer: v. 16 Him that has given this complete healing to him

Messiah: v. 20 the Christ, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus

Ruler in Heaven: v. 21 He must remain in heaven

2) Testimonies

Isaiah: v. 13 his servant Jesus > Wrote 4 SONGS of the SERVANT – Jesus

Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. John 12.41

David: v. 14 the Holy and Righteous One > EXTOLLED Him in Many Psalms

Moses: v. 22 For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you.'

Abraham: v. 24 He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.'

ABRAHAM > Jesus is TRUE SEED brings BLESSING to the NATIONS

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ. Galatians 3.16

Samuel: v. 24 all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days

SAMUEL > 1st to Speak of DAVID'S KINGDOM Fulfilled in JESUS

All Prophets: v. 18 God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer.

God: v. 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers has glorified his servant Jesus

c. Demands Repentance > Peter turned Temple into COURT ROOM > Guilt

v. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God = Turning AWAY from FORMER LIFE

If...one person sins unintentionally...The priest is to make atonement before the LORD for the one who erred by sinning unintentionally, and when atonement has been made for him, he will be forgiven... But anyone who sins defiantly...blasphemes the LORD, and that person must be cut off from his people. Because he has despised the LORD's word and broken his commands, that person must surely be cut off; his guilt remains on him. Numbers 15.27-31

IF Peter's Listeners DID NOT KNOW the SERIOUSNESS of their GUILT, NOW they DO! NOW they MUST REPENT or they can NEVER REPENT!

OT: UNintentional Sins can be PARDONED, WILLFUL Sins Could NOT Be

Ignorance does not remove the sinner's guilt, but it does mitigate the circumstances. Warren Wiersbe

VERY SENSITIVE Issue > BLAMING Someone / Some Group for CROSS
"The Passion of the Christ" > ANTI-SEMITIC – JEWS killed JESUS – TRUE!

CONSPIRACY > Jewish / CROSS > Roman / 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

1) Release > ADMITTANCE of GUILT > Blunt, Clear, SHOCKING

vs. 13-15 ...his servant Jesus. *You* handed him over to be killed, and *you* disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. *You* disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to *you*. *You* killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead.

PEOPLE Carry HEAVY LOAD of GUILT > REAL and IMAGINED

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

Thus GOD our SAVIOR > Wipes our SLATE Clean with the BLOOD of Christ

ONLY Jesus can LIFT your LOAD of GUILT

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

2) Restoration

v. 17 Now, *brothers*, I know that 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.

v. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, Lit. Translation > FLEE to God

// Flee to City of Refuge – Killers Pardoned -

Christ has **ALREADY RESTORED** Everything by His **DEATH & Resurrection**
FULL EFFECT Not **YET** Seen > **REDEMPTION** is in **PROGRESS NOW**

True repentance is admitting that what God says is true, and because it is true, to change our minds about our sins and about the Savior. Warren Wiersbe

Restored Creation > 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

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. 2 Peter 3.13

3) Refreshment > God **REMOVES** Sin and **REFRESHES** our Spirits

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

HONEST > Life can be **BORING**, Hard, **PAINFUL**, Suffering, **DREARY**

REFRESHING? Only **GOD** Himself can **DO THAT** > Find Him in **ALL**

CHRISTIAN Bus Driver NYC > Pastor – Regular Rider – Fellowship, Share One Day **DRIVER** was **VERY SAD** > **BORING** Life, Same **ROUTE** Daily Pastor > Come into Bus Daily, Pray, “Lord, this Bus is **MY SANCTUARY!**”
 Met Several **WEEKS LATER** > Smiling Driver Looked **REFRESHED**
 “It is great driving a **SANCTUARY** of **GOD!**”

TIMES of Refreshing = Not **ALL** Times **ARE** Refreshing > **WILL COME!**

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

DARK DAYS we are INVITED to PRAY -
....refresh my heart in Christ

Philemon 20

ANSWERED PRAYER Should LEAD US to PRAISE -

I will praise you, O LORD. Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me. Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 12.1-3

Acts 3

3:1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer-at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man crippled from birth was

being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. 12 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.

17 "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. 21 He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. 22 For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to

everything he tells you. 23 Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.'

24 "Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. 25 And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' 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."