

ONE POWERFUL SERMON  
ACTS 3:12-26

Introduction:

1. This first part of this chapter is a wonderful account of Peter and John going up to the Temple to worship and meeting a lame man who was begging at the entrance.
2. This man had been crippled since birth and had no hope of ever living a normal life.
3. God brought healing to this man and the Bible declares that he leaped to his feet and began praising God for this miracle.
4. The people who witnessed this miraculous event gathered together to listen to what Peter had to say, and so Peter took the opportunity to preach one of the most powerful sermons ever spoken.

I. PETER LETS THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT ONLY GOD HAS THE POWER TO DELIVER.

**v. 12** *So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"*

- A. Healing has always been a misunderstood subject of the Bible.
- B. So called "faith healers" have suckered people for hundreds of years.
- C. They become power grabbing leeches, playing on people's emotions, for their own personal wealth and power.
- D. God can still heal today as He always has, but He does not need humans to do it for Him, nor does He always heal those who ask Him to. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** *And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

II. PETER LETS THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF JESUS. **vv. 13-15** *The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.*

- A. Jesus became flesh and went to the cross of Calvary for the salvation of Israel, but they rejected Him.
- B. Instead, when they had opportunity to release the innocent Jesus, they chose instead to release a murderer by the name of Barabbas.
- C. They became murderers and killed the Prince of Peace, but three days later He arose from the dead and is alive forevermore.
- D. In fact, Peter and John were witnesses to His resurrection. **John 20:1-9\*\*\***

III. PETER LETS THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT BECAUSE OF THEIR REJECTION OF JESUS, THEY MUST REPENT AND TURN TO JESUS IN ORDER TO HAVE FORGIVENESS.

**vv. 17-19** *Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He*

*has thus fulfilled. Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord*

A. Repentance means to turn away from sin and turn toward Jesus. It means to be sorry to God for your sins. **Luke 13:3** *I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.*

B. When one truly repents their sins are blotted out, no longer to be remembered, and they become free from eternal condemnation and punishment. **Isaiah 1:18** *Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.*

IV. PETER LETS THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT THIS JESUS, WHOM THEY MURDERED, WILL BE COMING BACK. **vv. 19-21** *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

A. The second coming of Jesus is one of the most important doctrines of the Bible.

1. The new birth is spoken of 9 times.
2. Baptism 20 times.
3. Repentance 70 times.
4. The second coming is mentioned 318 times.

B. The second coming of Jesus is for a purpose.

1. He is coming to take His children home. **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18\*\*\***
2. The people left behind, and especially the Jews, will undergo 7 years of tribulation.
3. During this time the believing children of God will be at the judgment seat of Christ and the marriage of His bride will take place.

C. After the tribulation there will be a national repentance of Israel.

V. PETER LETS THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT ETERNAL CONDEMNATION IN THE LAKE OF FIRE AWAITS THOSE WHO WILL NOT HEED GOD'S WORD. **vv. 23-26** *And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people' Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.' To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.*

A. People today do not want to believe in a coming judgment.

B. They want to think of God as someone who will never punish anyone, but is such a loving God that He will take everyone to heaven.

C. Even those godly preachers and teachers of the Old Testament warned that those who would not listen to God would suffer judgment. **Psalms 1:6** *For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.*

Conclusion:

1. What a powerful sermon Peter preached that day.

2. He concluded his message with the words found in **v. 26**. *To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.*

3. What were the results of his message? **Look at 4:4**. *However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*

4. Hearing the Word, they believed. That is what is required to know Jesus and have an eternal home with Him. Believing from the heart and receiving His forgiveness.