

## Acts 3:12-4:22

### The Name of Jesus

**How many of you like adventures? – I like adventures especially God adventures**

A) I love the concept that following God could mean that anything is possible!

B) So what would happen if you and I approached everyday this way:

1) Get up do our normal routine: Devo's breakfast etc

C) I am planning to do my ordinary things – go to my ordinary job –

1) but because I serve an extraordinary God, I know that anything is possible.

**D) Jesus said – With God nothing is impossible – so I want to be open to what might happen?**

1) What would happen if we approached each day that way?

E) I think our lives would change dramatically if we approached in that way.

**Peter did-**

A) We saw in the beginning of Chapter 3 that Peter and John were on their way to the temple for prayer

B) It was their normal routine- doing the ordinary 3 times a day – 9am / noon/ 3pm – prayer

**C) In the midst of their ordinary – God is going to do something extraordinary – Lame Beggar**

D) Silver and gold..... rise up and walk!

1) This man who had been lame for 40 yrs since birth suddenly walking – leaping – praising God

E) The people were amazed! – Tripping out

**11 Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.**

A) **Picture this scene:** This lame man now healed – is filled with Joy -- leaping praising –

B) He held on to Peter and John – clung – with both arms.

1) The Greek is very strong -- it means that he clung to them with great strength.

C) They are trying to get away, but he will not let them go.

1) The people around are seeing the commotion – recognize the man – formerly lame – at the gate...

**And when Peter looked at their faces, he saw two things: He saw this astonishment**

A) the fact that they were bug-eyed with amazement at what had happened;

**B) But he also saw that they were sort of Star Struck**

1) a sense of **hero worship** toward him and John was developing.

**C) This is a danger to be avoided in Christian circles**

1) We can have the tendency to focus on Christ's servants rather than Christ

2) focus on the gifted rather than the giver of the gifts.

D) Peter and John were very quick to counter this reaction:

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?"

**Peter asked two questions Consider: #1 Why Marvel men of Israel? -**

A) Why should you be surprised – God would heal – the history of our God is filled with Miraculous

**You know your history, how God parted the Red Sea, provided manna from heaven, used a slingshot to kill a giant.**

A) Our God is the God of the miraculous. Why, then, are you surprised that He healed a lame man?"

B) God of miracles – Pray for big things –

**2<sup>nd</sup> Question – why are you looking at us.**

A) Not our Power or our Piety that did this!

**B) We didn't do it – Not our strength or our standing**

1) All God – it is all grace.

**C) Peter wants this focus to be on God – not on men.**

**Peter is going to preach a sermon here – 3 point sermon**

**#1 The Problem V.13-18**

**#2 The Prescription V.19-21**

**#3 The Perspective V.22-26**

So Peter says why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

**#1 The Problem: - Peter speaks the truth here:**

A) God glorified his servant Jesus –

B) but you V.13 **Delivered** him .v.14 You **denied** Him V.15 you **killed** Him.

1) Names for Jesus – God's Servant, the Holy one, The prince or author of life. – All messianic terms

**C) Aaron did a good Job – outlining each of those names last week – (on line)**

**D) Pretty intense moment**

1) Peter speaks the truth -

**Peter starts with the truth –because before we will confess that we need a doctor we need to come to grips with the fact we are sick.**

A) So Peter says when you should have recognized Jesus as the Messiah { You didn't

B) Instead u delivered, denied and Killed the Author of life.

C) In his indictment of them – he says something so powerful – **V.13 mentions Pilate.**

1) Pilate who was a pagan, gentile, who didn't have their theological background

**D) Pilate could see that Jesus was innocent!**

1) Pilate wanted to release Jesus – gave you a Choice

Jesus or Barabbas - a murderer!

**E) You Chose Barabbas instead of Jesus!**

**In other words: You rejected the giver of life and Chose a taker of life instead.**

**A) Continues in V. 16**

16 And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

**The apostle was saying, "Listen, Israel!**

**A) It is through the name of Jesus that this miracle has happened!"**

**B) Faith in the name of Jesus Christ brings power to the church**

1) This is so simple but so true..

**C) Any person who has ever done anything great for Christ has done so only by faith in his name.**

**When God's people really do good in this world, they do it through faith in His name.**

**A) The temptation is always to do things trusting in something or someone else.**

- To trust in good intentions.
- · To trust in talents and gifts.
- · To trust in material resources.
- · To trust in reputation and prior success.
- · To trust in hard work or smart work.

**B) Instead, we must always trust in and do good through faith in His name.**

1) **Song: Not to us – but to His name be the glory!!!**

**C) Peter says: This was done through faith in the name of Jesus –**

1) **Remember him? The one you killed**

17 "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

**I like Peter's tact here. Though Peter spoke boldly to them about their sin, he didn't hate them.**

A)He didn't say, "Yet now, you filthy disgusting wretches."

**B)In fact - He still connected to them as brethren.**

1)Notice that **twice** Peter had accused them of denying Jesus (3:13, 14) –

2)something Peter had himself done 3X

C)He said, "**What you did, you did through ignorance.**"

1)He left the door open for his audience to repent.

D)Sometimes I think we press our point so hard that we win the argument, but lose the soul.

E)Benefit of the doubt – Even Jesus did that - **Father forgive them they know not what they do**

**Peter recognized they called for the execution of Jesus in ignorance.**

A)This did not make them innocent, but it did carefully define the nature of their guilt.

B)If we sin in ignorance, it is still sin; but it is different from sin done with full knowledge.

C)Even though Peter acknowledged that they acted ignorantly,

1)he also insisted that Christ's death was not accidental.

D)It wasn't a massive mistake. It was part of a prophetic plan.

1)The prophets foretold of how the Messiah was going to suffer.

**The Prescription Acts 3:19-21**

19 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, 20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 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.

**Peter spoke boldly to them about their sin, but he didn't just want to make them feel bad.**

A)That wasn't the goal. The goal was to encourage them to repent and believe.

**B)Repent: Change of mind attitude that results– Change direction:**

1)Change the way you were thinking about Jesus!

C)**You thought this way – Nuisance – not the messiah**

1)Change your mind – He is -

**Repentance is more than remorse or regret**

**A)Regret in itself, is a useless emotion. It produces nothing.**

B)It's like putting a car in neutral and revving the engine. There is a lot of noise, but no progress (

C)**Repentance starts in the mind** – affects the heart and the actions

1)Peter says and this will be the result

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

D)You will first of all experience your sins being blotted out!

**Blotted out - This is a vivid word.**

A)Ancient writing was upon papyrus and the ink had no acid in it.

B)It therefore did not bite into the papyrus like modern ink, but simply lay on top of it. Dry erase

**C)To erase the writing a man simply wiped it away with a wet sponge;**

1)So God takes the list – wipes it clean –GONE

D)**SINS BLOTTED OUT** – times of Refreshing...

1)Refresh = given new breath!

E)**Life and sin** – out of breath – suck the life right out of you – wiped out

**Jesus gives new breath – new life – Fresh start!**

A)Peter says – Jesus will come to you – Comes to your heart

B)Paul Christ might dwell in your hearts through faith – RELATIONSHIP

C)**ALSO** a prophetic aspect to this – Jesus is going to come again and RESTORE – ISRAEL

- #1 The Problem – You Killed the Messiah
- #2 The Prescription – Repent – Change your mind
- #3 The Perspective – V.22-26

**Peter is going to tie – the old and the new together in the following verses.**

A) Jesus is the one who was spoken of from of old – The prophets

**B) He starts with Moses**

For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ 24 Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

**The Jewish people of Peter’s day were aware of this prophecy of Moses – Deuteronomy 18**

A) but some thought that the Prophet would be someone different than the Messiah.

B) Peter made it clear that they are one and the same.

C) And **Every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed:**

D) The destruction promised in the prophecy would become the legacy of this generation of Jews.

25 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.’

**Then he mentions God’s promise to Abraham to make of him a great nation.**

A) That through his seed – all the nations of the world would be blessed.

B) That had not happened – that is not what they were experiencing – Partial with Joseph

**Partial in Joseph – the nation saved – the people of the earth – saved through famine**

A) Joseph was picture –

B) Also partial through the reigns of David and Solomon – Israel at the heights

C) But that was definitely not what they were experiencing now

**Peter brings it all together in Jesus in V.26**

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.”

**Through Jesus – Abe’s descendants would outnumber the Stars – Father of faith**

A) Through Jesus the whole world would be blessed

B) Forgiveness – welcomed into the family of God

C) As we move into Chapter 4 – we see the reaction to the sermon – **TWO REACTIONS**

Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, <sup>2</sup> being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. <sup>3</sup> And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

A) The First reaction is from the religious crowd – the priest – the captain of the temple – Sadducees

**B) They were greatly disturbed that preached that Jesus rose from the dead.**

C) Sadducees were the liberal religious group

D) They didn’t believe in miracles – they didn’t believe in Angels – didn’t believe in the Resurrection

1) This life is all you get.

**E) Very Liberal and materialistic** – they were the ones who controlled the Swap meet in the temple courtyard. – Jesus turned over the tables

**That was their gig – they were crooked dudes**

A) So they are not digging this Resurrection talk

B) Disturbed = pained – perturbed – agitated – ticked off!

C) The gospel always disturbs people because it always disturbs the status quo.

1) Doesn't let you stay in your sin

**Another reaction:**

<sup>4</sup> However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

A) This thing is exploding – 3,000 the first sermon  
Now 5,000 – and just the men

B) Church is growing but so will the persecution

**C) Two reactions – believe and are changed**

1) Or disturbed and resist

Rd v.5-7

<sup>5</sup> And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, <sup>6</sup> as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. <sup>7</sup> And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?"

A) So Annas is actually the former high priest – he was deposed by the Romans in 15 A.D.

B) His son Caiaphas has taken over –

1) which gives us an indication – Romans – controlling the religious system in Israel

C) It has become very political – which was another thing about the Sadducees –

1) They were friendly with Rome –

D) See if you believe this life is all there is – you will do what you can to get all you can get!

1) Friends with the enemies – Compromise

**Now although Caiaphas has been put in place by the Romans – Annas is still calling the shots**

A) One of the reasons he still had power is he had the purse strings – control of the temple Business.....

**B) So Annas and Caiaphas and a few others are meeting with Peter and John – question**

1) By what Power have you done this?

<sup>8</sup> Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit**, {Peter is a new man – Bold} said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: <sup>9</sup> If we this day are judged for a good deed *done* to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, <sup>10</sup> let it be known to you all, and

to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole.

**Peter does something very interesting. He turns the tables of accusation back on them.**

A) You see, now let me get this straight. We're being accused of doing something good to a lame dude.

B) Here's a guy who couldn't walk. Now he can.

1) He was a fixture in the temple for years, since his birth, 40 years. He begged alms.

C) Now he can walk. And we're on trial for that? You're accusing us about that?

D) And so he turns the tables when he says, "If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, let it be known to you, to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, **whom you crucified**, God raised from the dead by Him--" by Jesus. "This man stands before you whole."

**Now remember Peter is standing before the same men who turned over Jesus- who instigated his death**

A) Imagine how they are feeling – JESUS – I thought we got rid of that guy once and for all.

B) I love what Peter is doing here: One of the greatest evidences for the Resurrection and Power of Jesus is a changed life

**C) Exhibit A** – Lame man – 40 yrs born that way – can't walk – begging – everyday – YOU HAVE SEEN HIM

1) LOOK AT HIM NOW!

**This was always the issue with the religious leaders**

A) Jesus changes lives – Blind – now he can see –

B) Leper is not cleansed

1) Lazarus dead – now he is alive

C) You cannot deny the proof of a changed life

**D)Greatest argument for the validity of the gospel is a changed human life.**

**Then Peter is going to say something that will absolutely flabbergast them V.11**

**This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”**

**I am so impressed by Peter’s handle on the word**

**A)He’s quoting Psalm 118, which says the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

**B)Now, along with that scripture comes an old story. 1)Some call it a legend. Some believe it was an actual story. And the story, or legend, goes like this.**

**C)That in the days when the temple of Solomon was being built, -**

**1)they didn’t quarry the stones at the temple site,**

**D) So they quarried it at a quarry site**

**1)And they moved the hewn stones to the temple, and they placed them. HUGE STONES**

**And they were so accurate in cutting them that you were unable to put a knife blade between the stones.**

**A)There was no gap. No mortar was used. No cement was used.**

**B)And they were so precise that you couldn't put a knife blade between one course and a second course of stone.**

**C)But the stones were hewn at the quarry. And they were brought to the building site of the temple.**

**1)They were laid out.**

**The builders would follow the schematic, and they would put them one on top of the other.**

**A)But one of the stones was sent over from the quarry that had an odd shape.**

**B)And none of the builders knew where it fit, so they sort of didn't know what to do with it.**

**1)And they pushed it aside to the rubbish heap-- some say they rolled it down into the Kidron Valley**

**C)To be taken up later because they rejected it.**

**It was a stone that didn’t fit anywhere until the temple was almost done**

**A)and they were missing the capstone, the cornerstone.**

**B)And they say, we have every stone, but go tell the quarry that they need to send the cornerstone, 1)the capstone.**

**C)And the quarry said, what do you mean send the capstone? We’ve sent it already months ago**

**Then somebody remembered. I think I know what happened.**

**A)That was the stone we marginalized because we said it doesn't fit anywhere.**

**B)And we pushed it out and rejected it. They found that stone, brought it back up, and put it in place.**

**Now Psalm 118 is a messianic Psalm, and he is quoting a messianic Psalm.**

**A)16 of the 150 Psalms are messianic – they deal with the Messiah – this is one**

**B)These religious leaders know it**

**C)Peter is building quite a case – Exhibit A – Former lame man**

**1)Exhibit B – Psalm 118 – Jesus is the stone that the builders rejected –**

**These guys don’t know what to say – how to respond**

**13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. 14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 saying, “What shall we do to these men?**

**For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But so that it**

spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.”

**Can't deny it – so lets threaten them – Don't speak in the name of Jesus**

18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, **you judge**. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” 21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding **no way of punishing them, because of the people**, since they all glorified God for what had been done. 22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

**Close tonight – 3 things**

**#1 Original question – what would happen if we lived each day – Nothing was impossible for God ?**

**Would we see God do extraordinary things in our ordinary lives?**

**#2 Notice:** 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

**That by far is the biggest compliment someone can give you – Tell you have been with JESUS**  
**A)WHO CAN PP TELL you have been with?**

**B)Fox news ? Rush Limbaugh? Liberal media?**

**C)Listen when we spend time with Jesus people can tell – rubs off**

**1)We believe that with God all things are possible**

**Finally – In what ways right now is the Gospel disturbing you?**

**A)Is there an area of your life – that Jesus is calling into question?**

**B)How are you responding ?**

**C)What is your reaction?**

**Grow – Open the door of that area of your life and let him reign**

**Respond to that tonight**