"Shine The Spotlight On Christ!"

Acts 3:1-26 (Theme - V. 12)
4-12-2026

Introduction: 3:1-13b

*** Shine The Spotlight On Christ!**

How?

I. Point People To The <u>Crucified Servant</u> Of God (V. 13b-15a)

A. He Was <u>Innocent</u> Yet He Was <u>Delivered</u> Up (V. 13b)

B. He Was <u>Holy And Just</u> Yet He Was <u>Denied</u> (V. 14)

C. He Was The <u>Author Of Life</u> Yet He <u>Died</u> (V. 15a)

II. Point People To The <u>Living Prince</u> Of Life (V. 15b-16)

A. He Is Alive As Evidenced By His <u>Personal Witnesses</u> (V. 15b)

B. He Is Alive As Evidenced By His <u>Powerful Works</u> (V. 16)

III. Point People To The <u>Returning Messiah</u> Of Israel (V. 17-26)

A. He Will Bring In The <u>Times Of Refreshing</u> (V. 17-19)

B. He Will Have <u>The Way Prepared</u> For His Arrival (V. 20-24)

C. He Will <u>Bless All Nations</u> In The Kingdom (V. 25-26)

"Shine The Spotlight On Christ!"

Acts 3:1-26 (Theme - V. 12)
4-12-2026

Introduction: 3:1-13b

*** Shine The Spotlight On Christ!**

How?

I. Point People To The _____ Of God (V. 13b-15a)

A. He Was Innocent Yet He Was _____ (V. 13b)

B. He Was Holy And Just Yet He Was _____ (V. 14)

C. He Was The Author Of Life Yet He_____ (V. 15a)

II. Point People To The _____ Of Life (V. 15b-16)

A. He Is Alive As Evidenced By His _____ (V. 15b)

B. He Is Alive As Evidenced By His _____(V. 16)

III. Point People To The _____ Of Israel (V. 17-26)

A. He Will Bring In The _____ (V. 17-19)

B. He Will Have _____ For His Arrival (V. 20-24)

C. He Will _____ In The Kingdom (V. 25-26)

"SHINE THE SPOTLIGHT ON CHRIST!"

ACTS 3:1-26 (Theme - v. 12)
4-12-2026

INTRODUCTION: 3:1-13b. Read & Comment

Peter and John knew when the crowds would be greatest, so that their preaching (cp. Acts 5:20, 21) would have a large audience.

The Jews had 3 traditional hours of prayer (9:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 3:00 p.m.). (cp. Ps. 55:7; Dan. 6:10; Acts 10:30)

NOTE: It was a custom for beggars to sit at the entrance to a temple or a shrine. People while going to worship God, tended to be more generous and considerate of their fellow man. So this beggar knew how to make a living!

This miracle was:

1. Undeniable. (v. 2- "Lame from mother's womb" - cp. v. 10). See 4:16 - "Notable miracle . . . we cannot deny it." Contemporary "healings" are psychosomatic problems, never the restoration of deformed limbs.

2. Supernatural. (v. 6 - Performed by Christ). Man cannot independently perform the miraculous.

3. Instantaneous. (v. 7 - "immediately") No process.

4. Complete and permanent (v. 8 - "walking . . . leaping"). Full recovery; lasting benefits.

5. Amazing. (v. 9-12 - attention-getting). NOTE: Peter drew attention to Christ.

"Why marvel at this?"

1. At this miracle (People tend to marvel over physical transformations rather than the spiritual transformation that Christ performs. EX: People try to avoid knowing about [hide themselves from] a drunken, drug addict, cursing, loser whose life is transformed by Christ. But they flock to healing meetings.)

2. At this man (who is healed)

"Why look ye so earnestly [stare or gaze] on us?"

Peter is saying, "This is nothing, and we are nothing." What you should look at is the One who did this - Jesus!

ILLUS: of our natural sinful tendency to draw attention to ourselves.

ILLUS: personal ex. of body-building contest in Plainville, CT., in 1980. (the vanity,

stupidity, pride, etc., of drawing attention to self)

The emphasis in context (chap. 3 & 4) is on the person of Christ. NOTE: the phrase "His name" (3:6, 16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 30)

In chap. 3, Peter's message had 3 points: Christ crucified (v. 13-15a); risen (v. 15-16), and coming again (v. 17-26)

* **Shine the spotlight on Christ!**

How?

I. POINT PEOPLE TO THE CRUCIFIED SERVANT OF GOD (v. 13b-15a)

"Glorified" - jesus was just given back the glory that was already His before He came to earth. He wasn't getting something new. Jesus (before His death) said: "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."

Jesus had to be Jehovah, who had glory, because Is. 42:8 says: "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another."

If God the Father glorified His son (servant) Jesus - who should we glorify?

When the Holy Spirit is performing His ministry in your life, you will glorify Jesus Christ (Jn. 16:14)

Sinful men really don't mind looking at other men and giving them honor, credit, praise, glory, etc. (cp. Acts 12:22-23 - Herod; Acts 14:11-15 - men at Lystra; Acts 28:6 - Barbarians at Melita).

But when it comes to giving God the glory, when it comes to giving Jesus glory - this is not tolerated! The Bible says: "We hid as it were our faces from Him" (Is. 53).

Without a doubt, if Peter and John had takent he credit for themselves for the miracle, they would not have been persecuted in Acts 4. It is the "cornerstone" which the world rejects (4:11); it is the preaching of Jesus Christ that grieves the world (4:2).

ILLUS: Testimony of Bill Murray - son of Madelaine Murray O'Hare. He knew that anyone so hated as Jesus had to exist.
"Son" = lit. servant.

A reference to the servant of Isaiah 42:1-9, 49:1-13, 52:13-53:12.

Jesus is the Servant whose "visage would be marred more than any man" (52:14). He would come from Nazareth as a "root out of dry ground" (53:2). Be "despised and rejected of men" (v. 3). "Bear our grief and carry our sorrows (v. 4). "Wounded for our transgressions" (v. 5)

A. HE WAS INNOCENT YET HE WAS DELIVERED UP (v. 13b)

B. HE WAS HOLY AND JUST YET HE WAS DENIED (v. 14)

"Murderer" = Barabbas.

At the feast of Passover the governor (Pilate) had a custom of releasing a prisoner. So he gave the people a choice: 1. Jesus 2. Barabbas - a notorious prisoner; committed murder and insurrection.

Even this event points to the innocent dying while the guilty go free.

C. HE WAS THE AUTHOR OF LIFE YET HE DIED (v. 15a)

"Prince of life" = lit. the one who began life, the originator of life, the author of life.

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2).

Let the world knew that the innocent, holy, just author of life has been crucified. And His substitutionary death is sufficent to save their souls!

II. POINT PEOPLE TO THE LIVING PRINCE OF LIFE (v. 15b-16)

A. HE IS ALIVE AS EVIDENCED BY HIS PERSONAL WITNESSES (v. 15b)

"God" raised Him up.

The entire Trinity was involved in the Resurrection -

Father - Rom 10:9-10
Son - "I have the power to lay down my life and raise it up again."
"Destroy this temple and I will raise it up in 3 days."
Holy Spirit - I Pet. 3:16 - "Quickened by the Spirit"

Because Jesus is alive, we know:

1. He was who He said he was - the Savior of the world
2. He has victory over death
3. We too will rise again!

> I Thes. 4:14 - 15 - For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep."

Jesus said "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed" (Jn. 20:29)

B. HE IS ALIVE AS EVIDENCED BY HIS POWERFUL WORKS (v. 16)

Peter is saying: You want evidence that Christ is alive. Look at what "faith in his name" did for this man.

Let the world know that the Prince of life is alive today, is powerful, and will save all who trust in His name!

III. POINT PEOPLE TO THE RETURNING MESSIAH OF ISRAEL (v. 17-26)

Today many think that man will usher in the kingdom; that man will build a utopia; that man will reform the ills of society, and then Jesus will come! No way!

"Men shall wax worse and worse . . ."

The Kingdom comes when the King comes!

A. HE WILL BRING IN THE TIMES OF REFRESHING (v. 17-19)

"Times of refreshing" = the Millennial Kingdom when the curse is reversed (Ro. 8:18-22), when the lion lays down with the lamb (Is. 11:6-9), when Satan is bound (Rev. 21)

Peter expected this time to come imminently (in his lifetime)

God's kingdom is only here when his "presence" is here - when Jesus returns (v. 20).

B. HE WILL RESTORE THE EARTH AT HIS ARRIVAL (v. 20-24)

Just as John the Baptist came to prepare the way for Jesus' first coming, Elijah is coming to restore all things before the Millennial Kingdom (Mt. 17:11) (see Mal. 4:5-6).

Before the last 3 1/2 years of the Trib. begin ("the day of the Lord"), God will send 2 witnesses (Rev. 11:3-11) (Maybe Enoch and Elijah who never died or Moses and Elijah, who appeared at Transfiguration - Mt. 17).

v. 21 – Jesus will remain in Heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things. “Restitution” ἀποκατάστασις – Restoration back to the perfect earth before the fall. All things will be restored. Jesus will restore everything; He will restore Justice, order, righteousness, the earth’s ecology and ecosystems. Even the animal realm will function as it did in the pre-fall conditions.

READ: Isaiah 401-5, 10-11. Isaiah 11:1-9 (wolf with the lamb)

"These days" - a ref. to the times of restitution and the subsequent kingdom of God. The phrase is not pointing to the days in which Peter lived, because the O.T. never spoke of the Church age (i.e. the age between the cross and the Tribulation). Samuel, for example predicted the Davidic covenant which involved a king sitting on the throne of David and ruling forever (2 Samuel 7:12-17)

C. HE WILL BLESS ALL NATIONS IN THE KINGDOM (v. 25-26)

"Thy seed" - singular (Gen. 22:18) is pointing to one seed in the line of Abraham - Christ! (see Gal. 3:16)

It is in Christ (the seed of Abraham) that all nations will e blessed! When will all nations be blessed? Only in the Millenial kingdom.
"Unto you" (i.e. the children of the prophets - Israel)

Paul said he preached the Gospel to the "Jew first" (Ro. 1:16)

When the Jews rejected his message, though, he turned to the Gentiles (Acts 13:46)

Jesus was not merely sent to save Israel, but "as many as received him. . ." (Jn. 1:12).

He is a "light to the Gentiles!"

So God also sent His son to bless you! To turn you from the power, penalty, and one day, from the presence of evil!

Let the world know that the Messiah of Israel is returning to set up a refreshing kingdom, a restored kingdom, and a kingdom that will bless all nations!

CONCLUSION:

In the end times, many false Christs (Messiahs) will come. SEE John 1 - people thought John was the Christ, but he denied it.

John the Baptist said, "I am not the Christ" (Jn. 1:20). "I am the voice . . ." (v. 23); "His shoe latchet I am not worthy to unloose" (v. 27); "Behold [look] the Lamb of God . . ." (v. 29); He is "preferred before me; for He was before me" (Pre-existence) (v. 30); "He must increase but I must decrease" (Jn. 3:30).

READ Acts 3:12 again.

When God uses your life, who do you see gets the credit? (EX: ability in soul-winning, preaching, helping, singing, doing various things).

When someone pats you on the back and says "Good job" do you mean it when you say "Praise the Lord."?

Our lives, now, are to be dedicated to putting Christ on display! Putting Him in the limelight, giving Him notoriety, drawing the world's attention and interest to Him!

Highlight His name! Do all to the Glory of God! (1 Cor. 10:31)

"Let us exalt His name together"
REV. 5:12-13 - "Worthy is the Lamb . . ."

Hymns - "Not I But Christ"
"Be Thou Exalted"