

Acts of the Holy Spirit pt 4 the Gospel of the Kingdom

Intro: Stefan Duerksen Lead Pastor

Church-Wide Prayer: Camp & Gen Z (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging

- Camp medic needed – July 13-16 MS
- Camp staff/volunteers/campers to have fun, safety, belonging, meet Jesus
- Pray that Gen Z would be filled with the Holy Spirit and for them to be BOLD
- Pray for revival in the youth. That they would find their life in Jesus.
- Pray for Gen Z to hold fast to a Biblical worldview
- Pray for Gen Z to be able to love people genuinely, to have wisdom beyond their years & to hold fast to truth.

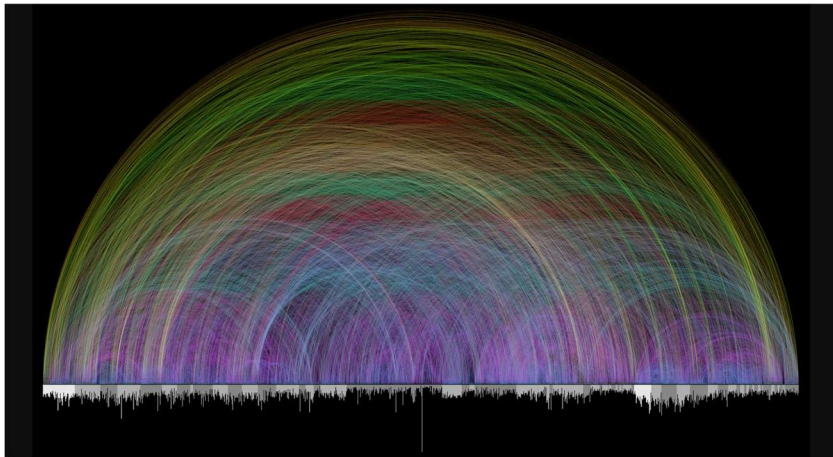
Recap: Last week we covered the end of Acts 2 & the first verse of 3...

1. **Connect – invest in your relationship with Jesus & other believers**
2. **Grow - Devoted themselves to the Apostles teaching.**
3. **Serve – the early church served each other in the Body of Christ and served those in their community!**
4. **Go – Make disciples – love, serve & disciple people to Jesus**

Imagine: we have 2000 people attending here... Imagine if HALF – 1000 said, YES to making their mission, “EACH ONE, REACH ONE.”

Today: we are continuing with part 4 of our Acts of the Holy Spirit series

“The New Testament or CONTINUED Testament”



Chris Harrison put this together – 63, 779 cross references in total in the Bible. Books alternate in grey scale. OT & NT are white.

POINT: don't let anyone tell you the OT is irrelevant or unneeded. You cannot understand the NT properly without the OT... which is why today I called it the **CONTINUED TESTAMENT.**

Acts 3:1-26 (1-10) Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And 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. 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." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But 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!" And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and 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. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and 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.

A. Miracle: "The lame man shall leap!"

The early Jews were known for their charity! They took care of those who could not work. So this would have been a common place for those who were very sick, or lame, to come and receive charity...

1. The lame man sought help!

- **MANY people struggle to express their needs & wants to others and to God!**
- **QUESTION:** do you struggle with asking others & God for help? what is a need you currently have?
 - i. Whether we are simply talking about our basic needs, or emotional needs.
 - ii. A task that needs to get done
 - iii. Addiction or life controlling behavior
 - iv. Anxiety or depression
- **ASK:** Present your need to God and ask him for his provision.

2. The Lord healed the man & fulfilled OT prophecy

- **Peter points - Isaiah 35:5-6** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then (Messianic age) shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

3. The significance of a Name

- **1 Kings 8:29** that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you have said, My name shall be there,' that you may listen to the prayer that your servant offers toward this place.
 - i. The Jews knew that their prayers were pointed towards the temple -where God's name dwelled... Using Jesus' NAME elevated Jesus to the place of GOD. By his NAME he was healed.

You have 1. Miraculous healing → 2. Prophecy fulfilled! → 3. Done in Jesus' Name = MESSIANIC AGE IS HERE & JESUS IS THE MESSIAH!!!!

Acts 3:9-11 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and 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. While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's.

B. Message: The Gospel of the Kingdom

Miracles, works & sharing the Gospel – ALL work together to point people to Jesus!

Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico

(11-26) And 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? The 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.

First: Jesus is God

- **Jesus' Name brought healing & fulfilled OT prophecy**
- **“The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob” – Exodus**
 - **Exodus 3:6** And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.
 - **Exodus 3:15** God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.”
 - Note: Moses and the Exodus was a foreshadow of Jesus and the ultimate restoration of the Kingdom of Israel – Jesus would lead his people to permanent freedom!
 - **Moses had said... Deuteronomy 18:15** “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen—”
- **“Glorified his servant, Jesus...” – Isaiah 53**

Second: Jesus is our Savior - he came to save us from our sins!

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, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And 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. “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 killed him!**
 - Peter speaks the TRUTH in LOVE and offers them grace “I know you acted in ignorance...”
- **God raised him from the dead!**
- **God planned it! Jesus had to suffer to save us from our sins!**

- **Isaiah 53:5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
- The Jews understood there to be ONE coming of Messiah. There were some discrepancies as 4 of 5 Major prophets referenced messiah suffering... Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel & Zechariah... but the vast majority of passages all spoke of a CONQUERING KING who would come and establish his Kingdom!
- **This was a MYSTERY! Jesus the MESSIAH comes TWICE. First to save us from our sins – then to establish his Kingdom! But NO ONE SAW THAT COMING – not the angels, not the devil and not God’s people!**

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Moses 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. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You 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.’ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

Third: Jesus is KING – he is coming back to conquer, rule & reign for eternity!

Fourth: Invitation & Warning: REPENT – turn to God

Deuteronomy 18:18-22 I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. You may say to yourselves, “How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?” If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken.

- **Forgiveness of sins – 1 John 1:9**
- **Times of refreshing** – one of the many benefits of turning from sin in your life and turning whole heartily to the Lord is that we receive REFRESHMENT from the Lord!
 - **He cleanses us from sin! We get to have a relationship with him! He gives us peace in the storms of life! We don’t have to be alone! We get HOPE!**
- **Salvation – we get to be with Jesus when he returns to Restore ALL things!**

Abrahamic Covenant: Peter end by pointing back to Gen 12!

- **Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

C. Application: the Good News is for US!

What would Peter say to us today? “Christian Athiest” – someone who believes in God but lives as though he does not believe in God. – Craig Groeschel

1. Repent: *is there sin in your life? Areas you are holding back from Jesus? disobedience?*

- Turn from sin and turn back to God!

2. Refreshment: *where or what do you turn to for refreshment in your life? How is your relationship with Jesus? do you live for him daily?*

- Make a plan to spend daily time with Jesus!

3. Refocus: *what are you living for? A better life now? Safety? Happiness? Freedom?*

- Make decisions through the lenses of Eternity!

4. Share: “each one, reach one” Share the Good News of the Kingdom with the people in your mission field (the place where you spend your time 😊)

- Who can you share Jesus with?

Question: If Jesus came back today, would you be ready?

MARANATHA!! The Lord has come, the Lord is coming! Come soon Lord!

Care@mysouthland.com

SC CHURCH WIDE PRAYER REQUESTS 2023

Cruise ship → → → → → Battleship

1. **Life on Mission** (Mt 28:18-20, Mt 22:37-40): Love, serve & disciple people to Jesus
2. **Next Gen** (Ps 78:7-8): Encounters with Jesus, strong mental health, boldness & belonging
3. **Persecuted Church** (Lk 21:13): Faith, fortitude & wisdom “to not waste the opportunity to share the Gospel”
4. **Heart of Prayer** (Ps 27:4): Every generation to find Jesus & learn to bring their needs to Him in prayer
5. **Church Renewal**: Directors for India and other new countries & many global disciple makers