

The Church on the Move: What I Have to Give to You

Acts 3 || Pastor Shawn Gendall || 26 June 2022

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: Who is your most trustworthy friend? What makes them stand out?

Worship: [Psalm 139](#) (Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation?)

Sermon Summary for [Acts 3](#) (Read aloud before reading the sermon summary.)

In biblical times, the temple was where Heaven and earth were woven together; the glory of God dwelt there. But Jesus came to usher in a new Kingdom, one not constrained by a temple, but relationally forged in His name to unite God with His redeemed, adopted children. When Peter and John encountered the beggar in Acts 3, they did not give him the alms he hoped for; they gave him the power of Christ's name. By faith in His name, the man was restored to perfect health (v16). What does this mean for us? And do we really believe in this power?

What is the power of the name of Jesus? // The crowds are in awe of this miraculous healing, prompting this same question in them as in us. Peter's response has four parts:

Christ is the author of life (v15) – All of our days were ordained and written in God's book before one of them came to pass. He is the source of life, by whom and for whom the universe was created. Christ, in His grace, goes before us as our Author ([Col 1:15-20](#)) and Captain, leading us into new life ([Heb 10:19-23](#)).

Christ is the servant (v13,26) – Jesus is the holy servant of the Most High, the One with the power to heal. This invokes vivid imagery, referencing the "servant songs" found in Isaiah ([Is 42:1-4](#), [52:13-15](#), [53:12](#)).

Christ is the prophet like Moses (v22) – Peter isn't necessarily drawing a connection between the type of work that Moses and Jesus did. The strength of Peter's statement is that Jesus's words demand a response. Peter doesn't hold back as he tells people stark truths about themselves. But hope is also given: an offer of who we can be in Jesus. But this offer demands a response (v22), turning to Jesus in repentance in faith.

Christ is the Holy and Righteous One (v14) – Jesus is author, servant and prophet because: underlying all that, He is the promised holy and righteous One. May we see and marvel at the wisdom of God. Because through Peter's words, we profoundly see the continuing power of the name of Jesus.

Why call upon the Name of Jesus? // Why respond to Peter's invitation to repent and turn back toward Jesus?
Having seen the power of Christ's name, we call upon Jesus...

That our sins would be wiped out (v19) – Through Christ alone we are forgiven and washed clean, if only we repent. Some hear this and think their sins are too great to take this seriously. But if the power of Jesus could wipe away the sins of those who hung Him on the cross, it can certainly wipe away ours too.

That we would have times of refreshing (v19) – Our Lord makes us lie down in green pastures. He leads us beside still waters and restores our souls ([Ps 23:2-3](#)). We all yearn for this restorative wholeness. But what would it look like for us to extend this to others, offering hospitality, life, peace and grace to one another?

That He may send the Christ appointed for us (v19) – Do we want all this? Do we want healing and forgiveness and refreshing? If so, then we must have Jesus. Because He is the only Way to lasting joy and fulfillment. Heaven and earth were always meant to be connected. We see this in how the world was created and how it existed before the Fall. And when Jesus came to initiate His Kingdom, He – as the Holy and Righteous One – became the author, the prophet, and servant. All so that we might be connected to our Father. May we long for this and so much more.

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

What is the power of the name of Christ?

- He is the Author of Life:
 - How does the crowd respond to the miracle? How does the beggar respond? How does Peter?
 - What does it mean that all the days of our lives have been written by the author of life?
- He is the Servant:
 - Reread these passages in Isaiah ([Is 42:1-4](#), [Is 52:13-15](#), [Is 53:12](#)). How is Christ a servant of the Most High? How are we called to emulate this in our own lives?
- He is the Prophet like Moses:
 - What parallels do you see between Jesus and Moses?
 - What did Shawn mean that Jesus's words demand a response? What response are we called to?
- He is the Holy and Righteous One:
 - What does it mean that Christ is the holy and righteous one?
 - What does “the power of the name of Jesus” mean to us today? What is its power?

Why call upon the name of Jesus?

- That our sins would be wiped out:
 - Can you think of a time where you forgave (or were forgiven) and it deeply impacted you?
 - What is the difference (and significance) of our sins being blotted out versus only being forgiven?
- That we would have times of refreshment:
 - Describe an experience of the refreshment and renewal our Lord offers.
 - How could/can your CG be a place of refreshment and renewal?
- That He may send the Christ appointed for us:
 - Pastor Shawn said, “By *his* faith in the name of Jesus, the beggar was healed.” Whose faith was it that healed this man? What is the source of our faith?
 - In summary, what does this sermon from Peter mean for us today? How are we called to serve our Father “in the name of Jesus Christ”?

Prayer

For this week's Prayer Guide for personal or group use, click [HERE](#).

Engage & Experience: Prayer & Gratitude

How have you grown in your prayer life this year? What role does gratitude have in your prayers? When have you been blessed by the prayers of others on your behalf? Take some time to reflect on what you may have learned about prayer this year and where you would still like to grow. Share with your group and leader(s).

Leaders: Please give pertinent feedback to the CG Team at community@pacificcrossroads.org.