

Readings

Scripture

^{3:11} While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. ¹² 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? ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵ and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' ²⁴ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. ²⁵ 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.' ²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

^{4:1} And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, ² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. ³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. ⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

- Acts 3:11-4:4 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

Looking back over Peter's Colonnade sermon, it is striking that he presents Christ to the crowd 'according to the Scriptures' as successively the suffering servant (13,18), the Moses-like prophet (22-23), the Davidic King (24) and the seed of Abraham (25-26). And if we add his Pentecost sermon, and glance on to his speech before the Sanhedrin (4:8ff.), it is possible to weave a biblical tapestry which forms a thorough portrait of Christ.

- John R. W. Stott, *The Spirit, The Church and The World: The Message of Acts* (p. 94)

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. (19) And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

- Deuteronomy 18:18-19 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

To Be Continued...

Acts 3:11-4:4

The Acts of the Apostles

Jeff Hooker

The Lame Man's Story (Acts 3:11-16, 4:1-4)

The Old Testament's Story (Acts 3:22-26)

- Moses
 - David
 - Abraham
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God's Redemptive Story (Acts 3:17-21)

- Sins blotted out
 - Times of refreshing
 - Sending the Christ
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Reflection Questions (*taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- What is the best cliff hanger or "to be continued" moment you have enjoyed in your favorite book/movie/tv show?
- Describe a moment where you found yourself in the middle of a life event and were waiting for resolution, (pregnancy, job search, illness, etc.). What were you feeling at that time? What steps did you take to continue moving forward towards resolution?
- List all the facts about Jesus which Peter mentions here. How does this profile of Jesus compare to the one in 2:22-24?
- Why is it important for us to see the continuity between the Old Testament and the New Testament? How does it affect our beliefs or actions?
- Read Deuteronomy 18:15-22. We often think about Jesus as Savior and Lord but not as often as a prophet. What is added to our understanding about Jesus when we think of him in this way?
- Read again the three promised blessings in Acts 3:19-21. Which one do you struggle with the most to receive or be mindful of? Why? What steps can you take to live in light of that blessing more this week?
- How do you allow your story to point people to Jesus? What is a step you could take this week to allow something God has been doing in your life encourage someone else to see Jesus?