

ACTS 3

Main Point: Miracles Validated the Message

12 Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? 13 For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to his servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release him. Acts 3:12–13.

Digging Deeper

Who Gets the Glory?

This first miracle worked by Peter and John was accompanied by the authentic Gospel message, which is one of conviction and repentance. In his opening remark, He deflected all honor and glory to the God of their ancestors, a connection his audience needed to see in order to connect Jesus to the Old Testament prophecy. This resonates very much with the recording of the new testament and aligns itself with Jesus' words in Luke 24:25-27. But potentially what's even more remarkable is seeing a very humble Peter vs the Peter we saw prior to the crucifixion. Peter deflects all eyes from himself back onto the author of life in the same way our lives and 'good deeds' should always point people back to christ through scripture.

The scarlet thread: Importance of the Old Testament

Peter's Gospel message here clearly demonstrates our desperate need to truly understand the prophecies regarding Christ and the "Scarlet Thread." This is the concept that every old testament story, record, and psalm has intentionality and purpose in revealing the nature of the coming Messiah. Through a full understanding of these stories now illuminated through Christ, we can clearly see God's Love for his people and his perfect plan for our salvation from the beginning of time. Peter's message here in Acts 3 closes in vs.24 demonstrating how Christ fulfilled the promise given to Abraham That through him God would bless ALL people.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Peter's attitude here differ from that of the Peter we see prior to the crucifixion?
2. Why is Humility necessary for repentance?
3. The apostles didn't heal everyone they met, but Peter and John were 'called' to heal That specific beggar, on that day. How does this show intentionality in God's plan, and submission to the spirit?
4. How often do we find ourselves asking God to bless our will with miracles, vs truly aligning ourselves to His will?
5. In what ways can we point our 'Good works' Back to Christ?