



LOVING JESUS, LOVING PEOPLE, PLOWING A COUNTER-CULTURE

TEXT: Acts 3:11–4:31

MAIN IDEA: Effective communication of the gospel requires a willingness to boldly point others to Jesus.

LEADERS:

- College-ish is underway! If you are a young adult, age 18–25, looking to connect and grow in the Lord this summer, then stop by the Totowa campus on Monday nights from 7–8:30. Doors open at 6:30—come early to hang! College-ish will run from May 30–July 4.
- Summer Sessions is around the corner! Two evening classes will be on offer. The first is an in-depth walk through the book of Ruth with Donna Aust, and the second is called “I’ve Got Questions,” which will be taught by Doug Becker and Walt Windish and will address some of the big head scratchers that are important for understanding our faith. These will be held on Thursday evenings at our Totowa campus from June 30 to August 4. More details to come.
- August 1–5 is Student Life camp—yes!!! All students who have completed sixth grade and up are invited. This year we’ll be at Tuscarora Conference Center in Bethel, PA. Please be praying for our students and their leaders, and be sure to tell anyone you know with kids in this age range. See the digital bulletin for sign-up.

GETTING STARTED:

- Watch this week’s Community Extras Video.
 - **Icebreaker:** What do you appreciate most about the people in your Community Group?
 - **Opener:** What stood out for you most from the sermon this week?
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We saw how the power of Jesus was at work in Peter in the public healing a man who had been lame from birth. This week, we examine the way in which the apostles boldly proclaimed the gospel hope in the aftermath of this incredible miracle.

WE ARE NOT THE POINT



Read Acts 3:11–16.


Peter and John have the opportunity to elevate themselves in the eyes of those who witnessed the miraculous healing of the lame man. But they refuse to do this, instead pointing to the resurrected Jesus as the one who had healed him.



In verse 12, what two qualities does Peter deny played a role in this man’s healing, and how do each manifest themselves today as temptations for us, when our good works are noticed by others?




  Why is it a bad idea to take the credit when we do something praiseworthy in the eyes of unbelievers?



 Peter says that he and John are “witnesses” to Jesus’ resurrection. By this, he means that he and the other Apostles had seen, heard, and touched the risen Christ. In what sense are we, living nearly two thousand years after the event, witnesses as well?

 How does an understanding of ourselves as witnesses minimize us and glorify God?


JESUS IS THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD’S PROMISES



Read Acts 3:17–26.

 How many of God’s Old Testament promises can you spot in verses 17–26?

  Why did Peter feel the need to highlight that God had foretold that “his Christ would suffer”?

Leaders: For this question, keep in mind that “Christ” is a title referring to God’s anointed king.

 The promise of the coming messianic king to rule over God’s people (a.k.a. the Christ) is a very Jewish promise, and the appeal to the Hebrew Scriptures is a very Jewish way of making that point. What does Peter say in this passage to prep the minds of his listeners for the fact that Jesus is for all people, not just for Israel?


  Why is it often important to incorporate key Old Testament promises and themes into the way we share the gospel, and which ones do you think are the most helpful?

OUR NEED FOR SALVATION

Read Acts 4:1–12.

Understandably, everyone’s initial focus is on the healing that had taken place. But when asked to give an account for how this had happened (“by what power or by what name did you do this?”), Peter quickly steers the interrogation into an opportunity to speak of salvation:

- In the name of Jesus this man was healed.
- This is the Jesus whom you have rejected.
- Jesus is the only name through whom anyone will be saved.

 Can you recall a time when God used you to meet someone’s needs (or wants) and you were able to use that as an opportunity to point to the salvation that is in Jesus?



💡 The fact that Peter moves from the topic of healing to the topic of salvation shows that the need to be forgiven and reconciled to God far outstrips even the most critical physical needs. What are some other needs and desires that distract people from their true need for Christ?

The most essential thing Peter says in this passage also tends to be the most offensive, both in the first century and today. This, of course, is his statement in verse 12: “There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

💡 Why is the idea that salvation is found only in Christ so scandalous to so many people?

💡 What would you say to someone who is struggling with the idea that salvation can only be found in Jesus?

RESPONDING TO TRUTH

Read Acts 4:13–30.

Here we see two responses to the proclamation of the gospel: Resistance and boldness.

Resistance

💡 What things do you find most shocking about the response of Jerusalem’s religious leaders?

💡 What should be our response when people refuse to accept the truth of Christ?

Boldness

💡 What examples of boldness do you see in the way the believers respond to the events described in this passage?

💡 What can you do to emulate this boldness?

PRAYER TIME

Pray that the Lord would help you to use your own good works to point, not to yourself, but to Jesus.

Praise God for his faithfulness in fulfilling his great promises through Jesus Christ.

Pray that you would be able to effectively communicate the gospel with boldness and humility, despite the resistance of unbelievers in your life.