



The Acts of the Apostles

The Journey – 2020
Jim Hoffman

1

The Acts of the Apostles

Home-Bound Visitation Meeting
Informational Meeting

- Perkins – Camp Hill
- Time: 10:00 AM
- Date: Thursday, March 19th
- Complimentary Breakfast

2

The Acts of the Apostles

Sight and Sound Trip
Thursday, 08/20/20, 3:00 PM Show

\$85 – includes ticket to the show, buffet lunch,
and bus transportation.

Pastor Dennis Sproull

3

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• Acts 3:1 Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. 2 As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. 4 Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. 6 But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" 7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. 8 He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. 9 All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. 10 When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! 11 They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John. NLT

4

4

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- Peter and John, now as new Christians, are still going to the temple for evening prayers at 3:00 in the afternoon.
- They encounter a beggar, who we learn later is 40 years old, laying at the gate to the temple complex.



5

5

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- When they see him they do something that most of us would not do – they looked him in the eye.
- This is the opposite of what most would do and had done for years – it can be uncomfortable to look those with genuine needs in the eye.
- This man who has been relegated to a life of begging has asked for money, but Peter and John don't have any.

6

6

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- Peter actually says, "I don't have any silver or gold for you." and as soon as the man heard that he probably was ready to move on to the next prospect coming to the temple.
- It would have been a down moment for the man, but not one that he had not experienced before many times.
- He was used to people saying "no" and used to going home with just a few coins and still trapped in his disabled body.

7

7

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- Think about it – in all probability Jesus saw this man and passed by him many times. Why?
- And it wasn't that Jesus didn't care about his condition, but it was because he had a greater use for the healing of this man.
- Jesus went about healing for 3 years and all the while this man is laying incapacitated and suffering at the temple gate.

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8

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- It seems that an extra 3 years of suffering was the right thing to do for this man and for the many others as well.
- Again we see that Jesus is not as concerned as we want him to be about our temporary pain - he is more concerned about the glory of God. Why?
- Jesus is still going to heal him, and when he heals him through Peter a new way of healing is opened – the new way is not limited to Jesus' physical location.

9

9

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- John 14:12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." NLT
- Jesus prophesied about a time when his disciples would do the same works he did, but greater in extent because he was going to the Father.
- Of course in his "going to the Father" clause he was making reference to the coming of the Holy Spirit and His power.

10

10

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- "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"
- And the man gets up and not only walks, but he began, "walking, leaping, and praising God".
- Now where did Peter get the idea that he could be the facilitator of healing? (Luke 10:9)

11

11

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- Jesus told him as much in the John 14 text and I would suspect that in that period of time between the resurrection and Pentecost Jesus told him even more.
- It will still require faith on Peter's part – if he makes this grand pronouncement about "silver and gold have I none" and nothing happens he is going to look foolish.
- Peter makes a bold statement of faith when he engages with this man and prays for his healing.

12

12

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What would have happened if this first prayer of this new apostle for healing wasn't answered with a "yes"?

Peter would have done the same as we do when we pray and the answer seems to be "no" – we pray again!

13

13

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- We sometimes get the notion that "Pastor Soandso" can heal – he can't. Neither could Peter.
- The best we do, and this is true for more than healing, is to be the facilitator or perhaps the conduit for the power of God.
- John 15:5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. **For apart from me you can do nothing.**" NLT

14

14

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- The crowd in the temple did what all crowds do, they wanted to applaud Peter and make him into a star.
- Acts 3:12 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. NLT

15

15

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- God gifted Peter and the others with gifts of healings and miracles and they handle their new found status well.
- They realize that in and of themselves they had no power to do anything that lasts – so we will see them consistently pointing people to Jesus as the one worthy of praise.
- Remember the words of Jesus – “What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds, for their ancestors also praised false prophets.”

16

16

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- Even the Holy Spirit will point others to Jesus and not to Himself – the 3rd person of the Godhead’s role is to glorify the Son.
- John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. KJV

17

17

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The Spirit glorifies Christ. The Spirit, who worked in and through Christ during his life on earth, now works in and through us. Just as the Spirit enabled Christ to bring glory to his Father, so now the Spirit enables us to glorify both the Son and the Father. In other words, a true understanding of the Holy Spirit’s work in believers begins and ends with the declaration that **we are here on earth to glorify the Son and the Father by the power of the Spirit.**

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18

18

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- A number of you in this room are having success in your various ministries and I thank God for you.
- With the praise of people comes a temptation to think that we have arrived, and that we have this all buttoned up on our own.
- When that attitude sets in we will soon see the demise of our effectiveness because we are no longer serving with his power, but with our own power and for our own glory.

19

19

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- Peter healed a man at the temple, but he understands the purpose of the healing is not about him, but about Jesus.
- Acts 3:16 Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.
- The people in the area had seen Jesus heal, but now this is something new – now followers of Jesus are being used to heal the sick.

20

20

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- Acts 3:17 "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. 18 But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that he must suffer these things. 19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away." NLT
- Peter's appeal is straightforward – God promised Messiah, and God sent Messiah.
- In your ignorance you killed the Son of God – repent!

21

21

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- Acts 3:20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, **and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah.** 21 For **he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things**, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets. NLT
- This is clearly an eschatological prophecy that, for the most part gets overlooked.
- For one, it speaks of the Father sending the son a second time – yes, Jesus actually comes to earth twice!

22

22

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- And then make note of this - For **he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things**, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets. NLT
- Do you see the word restoration? Yes, that is exactly what is going to happen.
- In the garden of Eden, Satan threw mud all over God’s beautiful canvas called the universe.

23

23

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- Isa 66:22 "As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me," declares the Lord, "so will your name and descendants endure". NIV
- The fact of a new Earth is written in many places in the Old Testament.
- The Old Testament saints were not looking for a new Earth because it was all they could relate to. They were looking for a new Earth because that is what God promised.

24

24

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- Luke 21:33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. NIV
- 2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. NIV
- Rev 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. NIV

25

25

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- Think of this – the Apostle Paul ‘passed away’ 2000 years ago and his body cannot be found today because it has completely changed into another form of matter, dust.
- However, at the rapture of the church the Apostle Paul will be resurrected and his body will be restored into a recognizable Apostle Paul. (like the resurrected Jesus)
- Just as the passing away of Paul was not the complete extinction of Paul, you can be sure the Earth that passes away will be resurrected and restored as well.

26

26

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- So already, by Acts chapter 4, we see references to the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ.
 - The Apostles thought it would happen in their lifetimes.
 - Those in the Great Awakening thought it would happen in their lifetimes.
 - And we should expect Him to return in our lifetimes.

27

27

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1st John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. KJV

28

28

Questions

29

29
