

Context

1] The Holy Spirit came upon the believers at the festival of Pentecost and 3000 people believed in Jesus (2:41)

2] What sort of man? A 'parable' (3:1-10) of the lame beggar –

i.e. the lame and the excluded are healed / saved and enter into the Temple

1 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."

Intro Parent to a child - Do you know how lucky you are? So God speaks to men of Israel.

The crowd gathers (11)

11a While he clung to Peter and John,

Nb not physical – he was walking and leaping and praising God (8)

11b all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's.

Cf They were going up to the Temple (3:3) entered the Temple (3:8)

Nb a life in Christ is compelling but it needs the explanation of the Word of God

Jesus is credited with the healing (12-16)

12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel,

Cf He addressed the people cf (2:14)

Cf 'Men of Israel' Peter - (2:22), Gamaliel (5:35), Paul (13:6)

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?

Nb Piety = Godliness (1Tim 2:2; 4:7,8)

Do not wonder, hope and stare at men – trust only in God

13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,

*Cf (Ex 3:6,15; 4:5) (NB only other appearances of this in Bible are in Acts) *God revealed Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**

the God of our fathers

i.e. we are all men of Israel

glorified his servant Jesus,

Glorified – Jesus (Lk 4:15); God (Lk 5:26; 7:16; 13:13)

JESUS is glorified i.e. divine

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.

nb Pilate had decided to release him (Lk 23:4,15,22)

God raised him from the dead (4:10)

the righteous one (7:52; 22:14)

cf the author of life - by Him all things were made through him and without him was not anything made that was made (Jn 1:3)

you will be my witnesses (Acts 1:8)

JESUS is holy and righteous i.e. divine

JESUS is the author of life

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.

Cf Jesus -in His name (3:6)

Cf your faith has saved / healed you (7:50; 8:48; 17:19; 18:42)

GRACE Only by faith is His name does the miracle of salvation/ healing happen

God states His responsibility (17 -24)

17 "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

cf in the past God overlooked such ignorance but now he commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30)

We all acted 'ignorantly' in being responsible for Jesus' death

18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

God knows, foretells through His prophets and fulfils the future

19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,
Repent therefore and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out and that times of refreshing may come

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.

Listen to THE prophets of Jesus and avoid destruction

His command to His hearers (25,26)

25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, '

I.e. sons O Israel

Note the men of Israel are sons of the prophets and the covenant God made with their forefathers

25b And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'

I.e. your offspring will be the means of God blessing the nations (25b)

25 in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed (Gen 22:18)

Note that through Abraham's offspring 'all the families of the earth will 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."

Nb Men of Israel are the first to be blessed by turning them from their sin

God sent Jesus to the men of Israel first to turn them from their wickedness

Conclusion

1] Be aware of the privilege you have in hearing the Gospel

2] 'Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom Heaven must receive until the time for restoring all things, about which God spoke through his Holy Prophets long ago' (19)

Surprise? *'Why did he give the crowd such a deep / involved explanation'?*

----- *They were all Jews, 'men of Israel', steeped in the Scriptures and traditions. God wanted them to know that he had come to them, FIRST.*

Overview

(11,12) Peter and John said to the crowd ‘ we didn’t heal this man’.

(13-16) ‘Yahweh, God, glorified his servant Jesus who you killed. It is in His name that this man has been healed’

(17-24) ‘You may have been ignorant but what God foretold by His prophets about His Christ suffering, has been fulfilled. Repent therefore and turn from your sins that they might be totally forgiven as God prophesied.’

(25,26) You are heirs of the prophecies and the covenant and as Abraham said ‘and in your offspring shall the families of the earth be blessed. You have the privilege of being first.

Main Point *Because the God of our father raised Jesus from the dead, listen to the word of God, acknowledge your privilege and repent.*

Key Verse *Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out.... (19)*