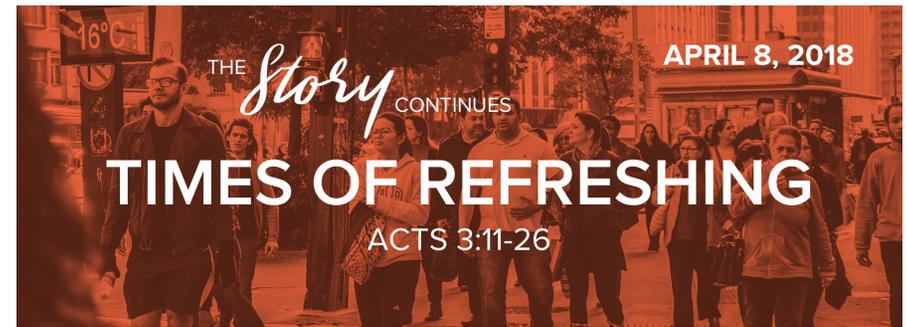


A FINAL WARNING (vv. 22-26)

On the positive side, we experience great blessing when we “repent... and turn to God.” On a less positive note, there are grave consequences for ignoring the claims of Christ. Peter brings his speech to a close by warning his hearers of the danger of finally rejecting Jesus. ²² For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. ²³ Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.’

²⁴ “Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. ²⁵ And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ ²⁶ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

1. Why does Peter continually appeal to the Prophets and the Covenants in his message to the people gathered in Solomon’s Colonnade?
2. How does Jesus fulfill Moses’ prophecy of a coming prophet?
3. How is Jesus, the better Moses?
4. What does Moses say will happen to the people of Israel if they do not listen to this prophet?
5. What happens to us when we fail to listen to Jesus?



Perhaps you’ve gone to a small group or some other informal gathering where someone thought it would be a great idea to break the ice by sharing your most embarrassing moments. You may have even thought to yourself, “This has the potential of being one of my most embarrassing moments.” So you dig deep into your past, come up with a humorous story, embellish the details, tell your story with self deference, and breathe a sigh of relief when it’s someone else’s turn.

Whatever you shared. You probably didn’t share your most embarrassing moment. If you are anything like me, your most embarrassing moment is much deeper and darker than anything you would share with a group of absolute strangers. My actual most embarrassing moment is so deeply shameful that I rarely talk about it with Cindie. When I do, I am overcome with guilt and shame. It takes a lot of gospel work to recover my equilibrium. It is an uncomfortable space, that is strictly off limits—even to my closest friends.

Peter, however, is not at all intimidated by uncomfortable spaces. His most embarrassing moment, after all, is described in vivid detail in the gospels.

As the crowds in the temple are buzzing with wonder over a miraculous healing, Peter is not afraid to plunge headlong into one of their most uncomfortable spaces.

He explains that the healing they have just witnessed is only possible because “God... has glorified his servant Jesus. Without pulling any punches he reminds them that this is the same Jesus ,

You handed... over to be killed, and you disowned... before Pilate... ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life... (Acts 3:13-15).

The people of Jerusalem had done the unthinkable, “They had killed the author of life.” But Peter is not highlighting their failure to embarrass them,

he is highlighting their failure to give them hope. He burrows into an uncomfortable space in order to offer the comfort of the gospel.

Peter knew firsthand, “None of our failures are beyond the hope we find in Jesus.” What is true of the people who crucified Jesus, is true of you and me as well. God’s grace is always greater than all of our guilt and shame.

AN EXPLANATION (vv. 11-16)

Peter tells us that the miraculous healing the people had just witnessed is possible because God has glorified his servant Jesus. The Jesus, whom God has glorified, is the same Jesus the crowds crucified.

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?”

¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

1. According to Peter what made this miraculous healing possible?
2. When Peter asks the crowd, “Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?” He captures the heart of the Christian life. It is not about our power or our godliness. We stand before God based on the righteousness of Christ and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives.
 - a. How do we benefit from Christ’s righteousness and the transformative power of the Holy Spirit?
 - b. What happens when we act “as if” it is “by our own power or godliness?”

3. How does Peter describe the crowds culpability in the death of Jesus?
4. How would you describe our culpability in the death Jesus?
5. How is the lame man’s faith a portrait of saving faith?
6. What do you make of the fact that Peter describes the lame man’s faith as “the faith that comes through [Jesus]?”

AN INVITATION (vv. 17-21)

In verses 17-21, Peter moves beyond an explanation of the healing that just took place, to an invitation to turn to God and experience the blessings that he offers through Jesus.

¹⁷ “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. ²¹ Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

1. Peter is kind to the crowds and their leaders when he tells them, “You acted in ignorance.” In the Old Testament there was no sacrifice for willful sin, only unwitting sin. How would you describe your sin? Are you acting in ignorance or blatant disregard for the truth of the gospel?
2. When Peter calls on the people to repent, what is he asking them to do?
3. What three things does Peter tell us will happen when we “repent.. and turn to God?”
4. How do we experience “times of refreshing” when we turn to the Lord?