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“Silver and gold I do
not have, but what I
do have I give you: In
the name of Jesus
Christ of Nazareth,
rise up and walk”.*

Acts 3:6

IN THE NAME OF
JESUS

Lesson 3 of the series – “The Beginning of an Unfinished Work“ (Acts 3)

“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.” (Acts 3:1-2)

- ✓ This miraculous event that Luke records initially involves 3 people, but the results will have far greater impact than any of them imagined
 - Peter – One of the 12 Apostles who will boldly declare his second recorded sermon in the Book of Acts.
 - John – a close associate of Peter’s (a fishing partner, along with James before Jesus called the three of them to follow him) and one of the 12 Apostles.
 - A man who was crippled since birth and that ailment (up to this point) had no cure and (for him) no hope for a cure.

“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.” (Acts 3:1-2)

- ✓ Luke tells us that on this day, Peter and John were going up to the temple
 - The church at Jerusalem was expanding rapidly and even though the early Christians were meeting in their homes (Acts 2:46), they still had the right to access the temple.
 - Luke also tells us they were going to the temple to pray and the hour that they went (3 in the afternoon) would have found the largest gathering of people
- ✓ Perhaps, they understood that this is where they would find the “lost sheep of Israel”, to whom they must declare the Gospel message.

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✓ We only have artist renderings of what the temple (rebuilt by Herod) may have looked like for it was destroyed when the Jews of Jerusalem revolted and the Romans, under the leadership of General Titus (son of Emperor Vespasian) in 70 AD completely conquered Jerusalem.

- The city was destroyed, the population was decimated, and many survivors were sold into slavery or dispersed throughout the Roman Empire. The Romans built a temple to Jupiter/Jupiter on the site.
- The only remaining remnant of the original rebuilt temple is what is referred to today as the Western Wall or Wailing Wall



“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. **Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.” (Acts 3:1-2)**

- ✓ It is while they (Peter & John) were on their way to the temple that they encounter a lame man (some versions say crippled) who had been that way since birth.
- ✓ It was a regular routine for this crippled man to go to the gate called “Beautiful” and beg for alms (money or material assistance).
 - It was smart of him to position himself there for that was the common entry point of those entering the temple
 - Historians tell us that the gate was very large (took 20 men to close it) and it was made of Corinthian brass.
 - Although the crippled man placed himself there for material assistance, God would use this as an opportunity to perform a miracle and bless him



“When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. **Then Peter said, “Look at us!”** So the man gave them his attention, **expecting to get something from them.**” (Acts 3:3-5)

- ✓ The beggar, who probably was often ignored, placed himself in that precise location (the gate called “beautiful” because he was looking for alms (money to care for his basic needs) from those who entered the temple
- ✓ Upon seeing Peter and John who were about to enter the temple, he asked them for money. Instead of ignoring him like so many others, they paid attention to the crippled man.
- ✓ Note the distinction from what happens here to those who flocked to Jesus during His earthly ministry who more often than not were coming to be healed. It appears that the crippled man was interested in having his material needs met and thus may not have been aware of the Apostles power and authority to heal.

“Then Peter said, “**Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you.** In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.” (Acts 3:6-8)

- ✓ Money doesn’t have to be the **primary** focus of our lives. While making or receiving money may be a means to an end, it is not an end all to our existence

*“**Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**” (Matthew 6:19-21)*

*“**No one can serve two masters.** Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money**” (Matthew 6:24)*

- ✓ The healing of the beggar's infirmity was **greater than any material reward** that he could have received and a changed heart brings about a change in circumstances.

“Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.**” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and **instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.** He **jumped to his feet and began to walk.** Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.” (Acts 3:6-8)

- ✓ There is nothing to indicate that the crippled man had any knowledge of Jesus, nor would he have known the healing power that the apostles possessed.
- ✓ Jesus healed multiple people during his earthly ministry, and he gave authority to the apostles to heal others also. Peter and John are fulfilling that calling.

“Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and **gave them authority** to drive out impure spirits and to **heal every disease and sickness.** These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ **Heal the sick,** raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. **Freely you have received; freely give.**” (Matthew 10:1-8)

“Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.**” Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.” (Acts 3:6-8)

- ✓ The reason Peter states; “**In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**” is to identify where their power and authority came from. They (Peter and John) were acting within the will of God by performing this miracle.
- ✓ There is power “In the name of Jesus” (Discover Worship)

There is power in the name of Jesus
There is hope, there is strength, and victory to claim
There is healing in His holy presence
There is power in His name

“Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” **Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk.** Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and **praising God.**” (Acts 3:6-8)

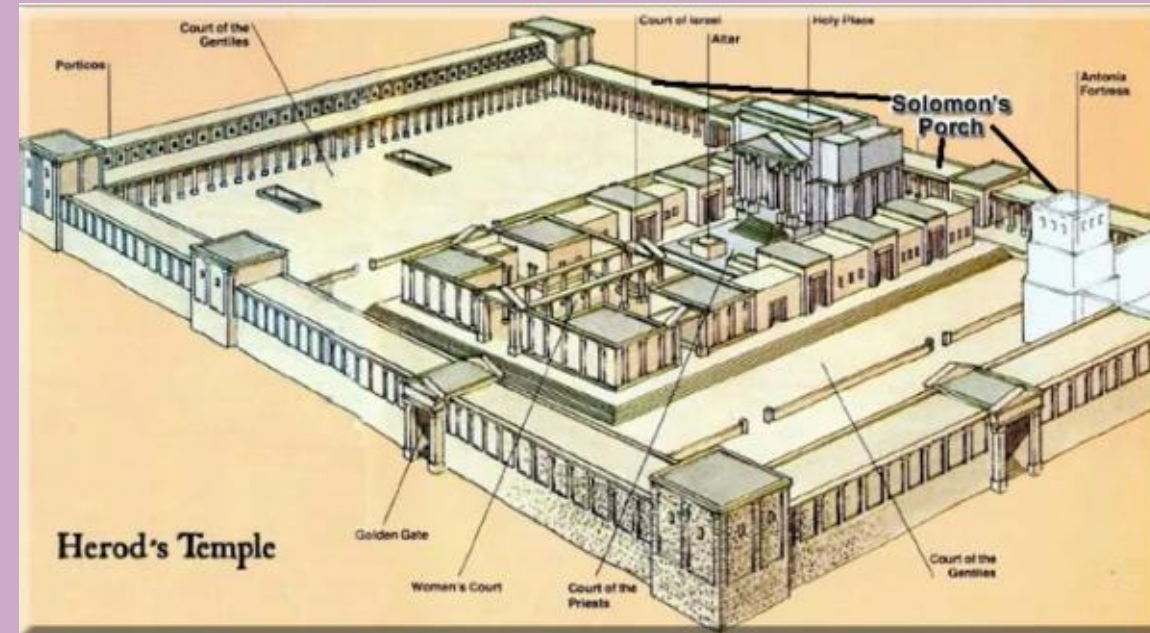
- ✓ The healing of the crippled man was instantaneous – it was not a gradual process
- ✓ Although the beggar had been crippled since birth (having never walked before), he did not have to be taught how to walk – he just stood up and walked.
- ✓ This was a “complete” healing, meaning that his symptoms and all ailments associated with this debilitating disease, were completely gone! He didn’t need a crutch or any assistance from anyone.
- ✓ We are told that he didn’t just walk but he jumped with joy and wanted everyone to know. He gave the credit to God and not to Peter and John.

“When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.” (Acts 3:9-10)

- ✓ The people who witnessed the miracle were astonished and perhaps ready to hear the words of Peter.
- ✓ This was another example of a divine appointment that had multiple purposes associated with it. It wasn't just a healing that took place but those that witnessed the miracle had to be asking themselves:
 - How was this possible?
 - Why did this happen?
 - How were they going to respond?

“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. 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?” (Acts 3:11-12)

- ✓ The man who had been crippled from birth, initially held on to Peter and John as he experienced for the first time what it was like to walk
- ✓ Those who witnessed the miracle were amazed at what they say
- ✓ They gathered in the temple area called Solomon’s Colonnade (Porch) located on the eastern side of the “second temple” and was named that in honor of King Solomon



Artist rendition of what Herod’s temple (the second temple) might have looked like

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- ✓ Peter is speaking to fellow Israelites (probably less likely to be the “religious leaders” and more likely the common everyday Jew of their day) and pointed out that this miracle (the healing of the crippled man) should not come as a surprise for the prophets foretold that this would happen.

“Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.” (Isaiah 35:3-6a)

- ✓ Had the listeners paid attention to their Scriptures they would have recognized these things to be the beginning of the fulfillment of what the prophets spoke of

“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. 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?**” (Acts 3:11-12)

- ✓ What should have been obvious was that Peter and the other Apostles were a living illustration that the power of God rested on them
- ✓ Throughout the Old Testament there are documented stories that describe God as one who performs miracles. Yet so many of the Israelites of that time doubted Jesus when he performed miracle after miracle and now seem to wonder and even doubt that these Apostles were being used by God in the same way.
- ✓ Peter intentionally directed all attention away from himself and John and **will point them to Christ** for it was because of Jesus they had the power to do these miracles

“Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. **Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.** As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. “Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts - no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.” (Matthew 10:1-15)

“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. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.” (Acts 3:13-15)

- ✓ He gets their attention by choosing a familiar description of God – ***“The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers”***

“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” Then he said, **“I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.”** At this, **Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.**” (Exodus 3:5-6)

- ✓ Peters’ emphasis on the word **servant** is significant for it was a familiar designation of the promised Messiah

“And now the Lord says — **he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself,** for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord and my God has been my strength—he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:5-6)

“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. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.” (Acts 3:13-15)

- ✓ Throughout the three years that Jesus ministered on the earth, his actions were often portrayed as a servant:

“Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.” (Matthew 12:15-18)

“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:26-28)

“When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them”. (John 13:12-17)

“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. **You disowned the Holy and Righteous One** and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.” (Acts 3:13-15)

- ✓ Peter reminds them that Jesus was the one whom they disowned and delivered up to be crucified. They knew this name well for many of them probably witnessed the healings and miracles performed by Jesus during His earthly ministry
- ✓ Peter uses a very significant name (Holy and Righteous One) to describe Jesus:
 - **Holy (One)** a recognized Messianic title. *“Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:68-69)*
 - **Righteous (One)** he was a sinless, spotless sacrifice. *“The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, “Surely this was a righteous man.” (Luke 23:47)*

“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. **You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life,** but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.” (Acts 3:13-15)

- ✓ Peter contrasts the holy and righteous life of Jesus to that of Barabbas who was a criminal and a murderer. Note the words of John - They chose light over darkness:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. **This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light,** so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.” (John 3:16-21)

“**In the beginning was the Word,** and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** He was with God in the beginning. **Through him all things were made;** without him nothing was made that has been made. **In him was life,** and **that life was the light of all mankind.** The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:1-5)

“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. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, **but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.**” (Acts 3:13-15)

- ✓ Since Jesus is the **Author of Life** it doesn't make much sense that He would be dead because he isn't!

“When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?” But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “Don't be alarmed,” he said. “**You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.** See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” (Mark 16:1-7)

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, that **he was buried**, that **he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures**, and that **he appeared to Cephas**, and **then to the Twelve**. **After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time**, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. **Then he appeared to James**, **then to all the apostles**, and **last of all he appeared to me also**, as to one abnormally born. (I Corinthians 15:3-8)

Noteworthy Items

- ✓ Either Jesus is alive and rose from the dead or this was the greatest hoax of all times
- ✓ If there was a time to prove Jesus didn't rise from the dead, it was during those early days when the disciples claimed he had risen from the dead.
- ✓ All the doubters and skeptics had to do was produce Jesus' body and it would have ended all claims by the disciples that he had risen from the dead, but no one could!
- ✓ It would defy all forms of logic and reason to conclude that this crippled man (since birth) was healed by the power of someone who is dead!
- ✓ This healing of the crippled man should not be overlooked for he was "living proof" that the evaluation of Jesus by those who doubted was completely wrong!
- ✓ An important item that we need to make note of is that the hearers did not dispute Peter's claims as to the Power of Jesus' name! Their silence proved it to be true!

“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.” (Acts 3:16)

- ✓ Later, when Peter and John stand before the Sanhedrin (the ruling council of the temple), Peter will declare these words. Why encourage faith in someone who is dead

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: **It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, **that this man stands before you healed.**” (Acts 4:8-10)

- ✓ The Apostle John will write these words in his later Epistles.

“And this is his command: to **believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ**, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God’s commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.” (I John 3:23-24)

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.” (I John 5:13-15)

There is Power in the Name of Jesus

“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 3:15-17)

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“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Does power such as this exist in someone who is dead?

“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ” (Acts 3:17-18)

✓ Peter continues speaking to his fellow Israelites. **These are probably common everyday Jewish residents in Jerusalem** and not the religious leaders who will arrest Peter and John for preaching about Jesus in the temple grounds – see Acts 4.

✓ These “fellow Israelites” probably witnessed the crucifixion and some of these ones that Peter spoke to may have even shouted to have Jesus crucified:

“It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. **“Here is your king,”** Pilate said to the Jews. **But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”** “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. Finally, Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus ” (John 19:14-16)

✓ Peter sets their minds at ease by telling them that what they did was in ignorance which **might best be understood as a lack of knowledge, understanding or awareness.** Perhaps theirs was more of an **“unintentional”** ignorance **unlike the intentional efforts** by **Judas Iscariot** and some of the religious leaders like **Annas** and **Caiaphas.**

“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.” (Acts 3:17-18)

- ✓ God’s plan of redemption was not stopped by human hands, nor did the crucifixion alter God’s plan or disqualify Jesus as the Messiah. The crucifixion was foretold by the Prophets and fulfilled by Jesus:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?” (Psalm 22:1)

“All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” (Psalm 22:7-8)

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:5-6)

- ✓ Although their actions were inexcusable and brought shame, reproach and guilt upon the nation of Israel – God uses those evil intentions to fulfill His own purposes!

“This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. (Acts 2:23-24)

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.” (Acts 3:19-20)

- ✓ Repentance has a purpose – it is the means by which a person change their mind or purpose which results in a change of behavior.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. **Instead, he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**” (II Peter 3:9)

“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, **but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.** For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice **by the man he has appointed.** He has given proof of this to everyone by **raising him from the dead.**” (Acts 17:29-31)

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that **God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?**” (Romans 2:4)

- ✓ Receiving God’s forgiveness comes through faith in Christ

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.”
(Ephesians 1:7))

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, **that times of refreshing may come from the Lord**, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.” (Acts 3:19-20)

- ✓ Peter was speaking to Israelites who longed for the “coming kingdom” (times of refreshing) that was spoken of by the prophets in the Old Testament.

“**The wolf will live with the lamb**, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. **The infant will play near the cobra’s den**, and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest. **They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain**, for **the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord** as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.” (Isaiah 11:6-10)

“In my vision at night, I looked, and there before me was **one like a son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. **He was given authority, glory and sovereign power**; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. **His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.**”
(Daniel 7:13-14)

“Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of **all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High**. **His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom**, and **all rulers will worship and obey him**” (Daniel 7:27)

- ✓ Peter was calling them to repentance and to believe in Jesus so that one day they could enjoy the benefits of the coming Kingdom (“times of refreshing”)

“Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. 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. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people’ (Acts 3:21-23)

- ✓ All that the prophets spoke of concerning the kingdom will come to pass and this world as we know it will be dramatically changed for God will rule and reign just as He promised!

“This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you. **The days are coming,**’ declares the Lord, ‘**when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their ancestors to possess,**’ says the Lord.” (Jeremiah 30:1-2)

“The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when **I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.** It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them, declares the Lord. “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. **“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”** (Jeremiah 31:31-33)

“Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. 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. Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people” (Acts 3:21-23)

- ✓ All that the prophets spoke of concerning the kingdom will come to pass and this world as we know it will be dramatically changed for God will rule and reign just as He promised!

“The days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. **‘In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;** he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: **The Lord Our Righteous Savior**” (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

"My servant David will be king over them, and **they will all have one shepherd.** They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. **I will make a covenant of peace with them;** it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. **My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God,** and **they will be my people.** Then the nations will know that I the Lord make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.” (Ezekiel 37:24-28)

“Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. 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.** **Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people”** (Acts 3:21-23)

- ✓ What Peter is saying to these residents of Jerusalem is they completely missed the signs. **Jesus is the promised Messiah** and instead of embracing him as their Savior, they rejected.

“Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, **when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne,** you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and **will inherit eternal life.**

But many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.” (Matthew 19:28-40)

“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. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them.** They will be his people, and **God himself will be with them and be their God.** ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes.

There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Revelation 21:1-4)

- ✓ Peter provides hope by telling them to listen to his words and the words of Jesus before it is too late – and the same applies to us.

“Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. 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.’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.” (Acts 3:24-26)

- ✓ Peter’s claim is that the Prophet has come (Jesus Christ) – a New Testament Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15-19, John 6:14), who will both deliver those who follow Him and judge those who do not!
- ✓ The entire theme of Peter’s sermon was that the hearers know that no matter what their familial standing as Jews/Israelites; the requirement to receive the promised blessings of God was repentance! They must turn from their wicked ways (rejection of Jesus as Messiah) and embrace Jesus as Lord and Savior.
- ✓ It is highly probable that the hearers of this message were less responsive to Peter’s words and thus the tide will begin to turn towards silencing their message by the religious leaders of their day. That will be the theme of the next chapter – Acts 4