



**Acts – Can I get a Witness?
Wk. 11 The Wonder in the Name!
By Pastor Jody May 10/23/2022**

Acts 3:11–26 ESV

¹¹ 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."

[INTRODUCTION – Marketing, one stop shopping like Orkin. The power in the Gospel is that the name of Jesus says this is one-stop shopping.]



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The Wonder of it all has now become the Wonder in the Name! Peter, as the lead Apostle, is also in charge of communicating the vision for the church. He builds all future work of the Apostles, all the benefits of the Gospel, so that it all will be based in just one name.

[MAIN POINT]

One Name does it all...

Today we are going to witness Peter's 3-point sermon, for you saw back on Pentecost he is the original Baptist, His sermon based on Jesus' name will move from the **Conviction** His name brings, to the **Call to Repentance**, and assuring the converts of the **Corroboration** of all their OT authorities.

1. The Conviction brought to us by Jesus' Name (11-16).

First let's make sure we are all on the same page about conviction. No one is convicted enough about Jesus to be convinced about who He is UNLESS, the HS has made one born again (Jn 3). **TRUE CONVICTION** that brings **SALVATION** leads to being **CONVINCED** on a couple of things:

1st they have become convinced of Jesus' identity. Throughout their short ministry lives, then the participation in that miracle, through what they were taught, they were convinced that the name of their friend Jesus, has multiple meanings attached to it, of which there has never been another name like it.

2nd they have become convinced of the people's (including them) liability of Jesus' death. Peter again in his second sermon, lets those know that did not show up at his house on Pentecost, that the reason they are even having this conversation, is because the people are to blame, both Jew and Gentile.

Born Again? That is a sign of truly being saved when you are **first convinced** by what you read in the Bible, that **Jesus** was truly **deserving of worship** for all He's done. **Secondly** you also become aware that **all of mankind** is culpable and is **deserving of death**. **If that is not you, then friend you are not saved.**



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Let's talk first about their conviction that the name of Jesus, the identity behind it, how **One Name does it all!**

- **God's Servant (Prophet) (13)** - Means that He alone is the proper provider of the will of God. Jesus was God's Servant foretold in **Isaiah 53**: - ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ('Fourth Servant Song' in Isaiah 52:13-53:12¹). **Prophets oftentimes killed for their messages of condemnation.**
- **The Holy and Righteous One (King) (14)** - Meaning He was the Messiah that was foretold. - From 7:52 and 22:14 it seems that 'the Righteous One' (*ho dikaios*) was a messianic designation, derived from prophetic expectations (e.g., Is. 32:1; 53:11; Je. 23:5; Zc. 9:9; cf. 1 Enoch. 38:2; 53:6; Ps. Sol. 17:35).² Jer. 23:5-6⁵ "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'
- **Author of Life - (Priest) (15)** - Means He is the originator of New life - By virtue of his death and resurrection, Jesus is the originator of new life for others, as the argument in vv. 16-21 goes on to suggest. His life-giving power has just been powerfully illustrated in the restoration of life to the lame man's limbs.³ His priestly sacrifice is what made that man's miracle happen for Peter did it in faith of Jesus' sacrifice.

¹ Peterson, D. G. (2009). [*The Acts of the Apostles*](#) (p. 174). Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

² Peterson, D. G. (2009). [*The Acts of the Apostles*](#) (p. 175). Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

³ Peterson, D. G. (2009). [*The Acts of the Apostles*](#) (p. 176). Grand Rapids, MI; Nottingham, England: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.



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The bottom line is that Peter is connecting **(2 separate promises)** the **promise of the New Covenant, was being brought to them by the Messiah.** That one name solves a lot of issues for everyone.

He's that one that speaks for God (**prophet**).

He's the one that makes an offering to God that is accepted forever.
(priest)

He's the one that sits on the throne forever to lead people into a new age of God worshipping people (**king**).

Jesus' one name has replaced all the major offices needed for the Jewish people to be a people, their Prophet, Priest, and King, and He does this as the Messiah as in the new Messianic Age forever.

Then Peter states in vs. 16, 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.** Peter makes a claim that is what he believes, it was in those beliefs about Jesus he told the man to get up and walk, and we all should know that the miracle displayed in the temple would say that the Father believes the same things.

This statement by Peter is so bold to everyone, to him it's just a statement of fact, but to everyone else they are witnessing an alien encounter, and out of this world moment. The miracle brought wonder and the name of Jesus was proclaimed as the reason, making this one moment in time for all those there, a moment they cannot walk away from. They can't unsee what they just saw, they can't unhear what they just heard, the Gospel had been plopped down in their lap and now they have to choose what to do with it.

The Apostle's **2nd Conviction** were also convinced that men, whether morally good or bad, all were culpable for the death of Jesus. Peter lays that out in his message as well:

- You *delivered* Him (13) – you handed over the only man that could save you.
- You *denied* Him (13-14) – you refused Pilate's offer to return Him
- You *replaced* Him (14) – so you took Barabbas instead a violent criminal
- You *killed* Him (14) – Then instead of release you forced Pilate to kill him.



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The issue is under proof of who He is, **no one came to his aide**. Perhaps even today, you have this misguided belief that you would have done something differently if you were there (**how have we done those things to Him**). Because of what His name means and identifies Him as, in turn it means our name is synonymous with traitor of the highest degree deserving of death because He is of infinite value and worth!

Now as bad as that is, the Gospel being such great news can overcome the greatest crime of the treason against the greatest person ever. **Jesus' name does bring conviction, but it also brings Salvation, one name does really do it all!**

2. The Call for Repentance in Jesus' Name (17-21).

In face of the convinced disciples and in face of the conviction the HS was bringing on this crowd, which is evidenced in the following verses, (the arrest of Peter and John and thousands coming to Christ) we can see that Hope has broken through. There are three things Peter **calls out** here for the Crowd in wonder in this Gospel presentation:

A. Call to Recognize their Ignorance:

Peter does a beautiful and gracious thing, as we have seen Jesus do in His life, time and time again, for His disciples. Peter doesn't make excuses for the conviction, but he explains it:

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

He's like friends, you just didn't know better. He's echoing the words of Jesus from the Cross, "**Father forgive them for they know not what they do.**" The People in the temple that rejected the glory of Jesus and all that His name had to bring, were ignorant and led by rulers who were out for their own glory.

Ignorance does not mean there are no penalties, even our own law system states that, "*Ignorance is no excuse when it comes to the law*" (**my parents**



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would still discipline me even when I was in ignorance as in a “Do you mind?”). But because there is a level of understood ignorance, there is an offer to repent.

B. Call to Repentance for Forgiveness:

¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

Peter calls for them to Repent, to turn from **not accepting the Messiah to Accepting the Messiah** and all the name means/**radical shift in their thinking!** The promise is your sins are blotted out. I have heard pastors compare and demonstrate this on an **etch-a-sketch** but that’s off. You would need to take that etch-a-sketch and dismantle it, for the tool for sin recording has been undone, that’s called the law. The law can no longer be used to record your sin but only for a guide for Godly living.

When I became an adult, my parents no longer held me to the law that my room must be cleaned before I went out for the weekend. Even though I had outgrown that law the evidence of my life maturing was that my room was 99% of the time cleaned. I had repented from thinking as a child and had grasped onto living as an adult. Please don’t get hung up if your room is a mess, I use that to say, the offer of the Gospel is a clean slate and when we get that clean slate, we usually **want to perform for the value of getting it.**

When you receive the good news of the Gospel, the HS usually causes you to desire to show that. Our God wants to wipe away not just your foulest sin but wants to take it all away forever.

C. Call to Receive Refreshment from the Lord:

²⁰that times of **refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

This is the only time we find this word, **Refreshing** here in the NT. It means to be revived, to come back to life, that will lead to the second coming of Jesus.



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It's about the living in Eternal life, that is not a thing that happens after you die, it starts now.

Recognize, Repent, and be Refreshed, that is a pretty good offer for idolatry, and treason. That is the offer of the good news, to be removed from that which condemns and to receive that which gives life, and **that all happens because of the name of Jesus**, it is through Him that any of this happens.

Now Peter comes to his last and third point of his sermon, he wants to assure them of the decision that the HS is causing them to make.

3. The Corroboration of OT Witnesses pointing to Jesus' Name (22-26).

Peter assures of the truth he just preached, and he doesn't go to the rulers in the temple, but he goes to the sources of Biblical authority for the rulers in the temple.

- The Prophets – 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.
- The Patriarchs – 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.'

Peter is removing the barrier for ignorance, if the temple rulers were still trying to defend their position that Jesus was a heretic, then they must now defend their forefathers for they believed in and looked to see Jesus' coming. All the authority that was behind the Sanhedrin was based in the Jewish forefathers and they all based their authority in the future promise of the Messiah.

It is the same in our world right now, if you adhere to the constitution then **everyone must have free speech**. It doesn't matter whether you like Pfizer or not, whether you believe in climate change or not, whether you are for open borders or not, whether you think Trump is a fascist or not, whether you think



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Biden is senile or not, if you take away the right to be heard then you show yourself not in obedience to the highest law of the land and from that point, as far as I am concerned no one has to listen for you are not an American.... Peter is using the same philosophical argument as we could in our current status as a nation.

The name of Jesus is the power behind the Temple's authority, He was the last prophet (Heb 1: 1-2), and He is the eternal offspring of Abraham by which all the families are blessed.

There has always been one name, in which we are to believe in as the answer for everything. God sent the man Jesus to deal with sin, to bring the new covenant, as the Messiah fulfilling all the offices of the OT, to answer His people's greatest need as shown in Peter's final statement :

***26** God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."*

[APPLICATION & CHALLENGE]

Peter today is giving us the same address. We may be in here today, wondering about a conviction in our heart. Does the same sermon given 2,000 years ago just as relevant as it was when it was first given? Of course, it is, because the same HS present then is present today, and we just read that same sermon, and we had just witnessed the same miracle, and we can see the same beggar in our eyes because we believed it happened by faith. So, you may be having some of the same convictions as these people did those centuries ago.

Today, perhaps you are understanding that Jesus was not just a one-time sacrifice, but that His sacrifice for you was to bring you into His Kingdom. **REPENT** - Perhaps you need to turn to not just the belief that He is your Savior, but He is your King which means Jesus gets to call all the shots in your life. **How you practice being a subject in His Kingdom is by practicing obedience in His Sovereign reign.**



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The Jews of that day would not have had the same problem we do today, excepting His sacrifice would have been harder for them because they wanted a king, is that you? We show **His Kingship** by being obedient to His Word and by how we love one another as His subjects. Do we sacrifice to bring His name to people, do we give generously to this church and the ministry trying to undo one another in this room, do we forgive unconditionally even when others are not nice, do we love as He loved us first as we were still sinners? Westernized thinkers tend to think too much of themselves and like the idea of being loved but they do not like the thought of being ruled, Christian you are called to take Him as your priest (sacrifice as your prophet (you adhere yourself to His teachings and warnings) and as King (we obey Him).

I also want to challenge us to think a little deeper in our **READINGS** of the Bible, specifically the OT. As you read that in your plans your job as the believer is to ask yourself how do you see the need of Christ, or the substitute for Christ in the OT? The more you begin to ponder the different offices of Christ, the more you see the OT covenants fulfilled eventually in Him, the more you will see Him in the OT and the greater your joy for Him will become. To see Christ, that the whole of scripture is about Him, will increase your sense of commitment to Him. The point of the OT was to point to Jesus and our need for Him, make sure you are putting that thought over your readings daily.

(Illustration of Sanctuary Cities from Numbers 35!)

Lastly, if you have never **RESPONDED** to Jesus by Baptism then I am calling you to complete it today! Peter's message to this temple audience would have been the same he gave at Pentecost. Turn and show your repentance by Baptism, put your money where your mouth is, and declare your fealty to a new king and a new life. Make public the private call of God to this family and the world.

Let us all leave here today with a plan of how to be obedient to the name of Jesus, for the one name, the man behind it, has done it all. He has saved us



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by fulfilling all the requirements, and He has done it forever, let us respond to the HS and let us leave here one degree more obedient as His people.

[PRAYER]

[COMMUNION]

[BENEDICTION]

Go in the name of the Father, that provided His Son to be the once and for all Savior we need.

Go in the name of the Son, that will eternally fulfill His duties as our Messiah.

Go in the name and power of the Holy Spirit, that will remind you daily of your devotion and love for Jesus, now go and share His name with others this week.