

Acts 3:11-16

EXALTING JESUS IN
GOSPEL PRESENTATIONS



Gospel presentations should always deflect to Jesus (3:11-12)

¹¹ *While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's.*

- Thrilled with his newfound ability to walk, the man who was healed earlier has his arms around his new brothers in Christ
- *“utterly astounded”* - realizing the healing that occurred, many people gathering around the healed man astonished and intrigued

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?”*

- Peter lets the Jewish worshipers know their preoccupation with Peter and John is misguided
 - *“why do you wonder at this”* – a display of God's power shouldn't shock them
 - *“why do you stare at us”* – the people's attention is fixed on Peter and John as if they are miracle workers
 - *“as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk”* – the man's healing has nothing to do with their ability or their godliness

Gospel presentations should always deflect to Jesus (3:11-12)

- Emphasizing human agency detracts from the glory of God
- Neither their sincerity nor their significance persuaded God to act
- The amazing display of healing power is not rooted in Peter or John at all
- The glory of God in Jesus is the reason for this healing
- Peter and John learned this from Jesus
 - John 9:1-3
- These people need to have a better understanding of Jesus

Gospel presentations are to show guilt is inescapable (3:13-15)

¹³ *The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus,*

- Peter declares that what is happening is tied to God's plan and purpose in the stream of redemptive history
- When God speaks to Moses at the burning bush, He connects redemptive history to the patriarchs
 - Exodus 3:6
- God is at work for His people through the New Covenant, secured by the atoning work of His Son, Jesus
- By this work, accomplished for His people throughout the nations of the world, God glorifies His servant Jesus
 - Isaiah 42:1
 - Matthew interprets the work of Jesus to be part of what Isaiah prophesied will happen through the "Servant"
 - Matthew 12:18
 - Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Peter quotes this passage, emphasizing that Jesus is the "Servant" glorified by God
- God's redemptive purpose achieves its goal in Jesus

Gospel presentations are to show guilt is inescapable (3:13-15)

...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.

- Peter does not hesitate to remind them of their recent conduct and culpability before God
- What did these Jews do? – *“whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he decided to release him”*
 - Pilate interrogated Jesus and knew He did nothing wrong
 - But the people denied Jesus and pressured Pilate to condemn Jesus
- Peter continues to charge them with injustice and evil, emphasizing the impeccable deity of Jesus – *“But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you”*
- Even though Pilate ultimately handed Jesus over to be crucified, Peter puts the blame squarely on them – *“and you killed the Author of life”*

Gospel presentations are to show guilt is inescapable (3:13-15)

- Why would they do such a thing?
- Because of the judgment of God, He gives them over to do what is irrational
 - Romans 1:28-32
- This is far from the end of the story – “*whom God raised from the dead*”
 - The resurrection is the verification of the righteous victory of Jesus over sin and death
 - Romans 1:3-4
 - The healing of the crippled man in the temple court is a verification of the victory and reign of Jesus
- Peter and John are witnesses who can verify all they have proclaimed – “*To this we are witnesses*”
 - They are witnesses of the corrupt proceedings that occurred before Pilate by the very people to whom they now speak
 - Peter and John are firsthand witnesses of Jesus in resurrection glory, and advance the victory of Jesus through healing, and gospel proclamation and transformation

Gospel presentations need to promote the power of Jesus (3:16)

¹⁶ *And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know,*

- The credit for the healing of this man born a cripple does not rest even partially on Peter and John
- The name of Jesus is responsible for it all

and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

- The Lord is graciously putting His power on display
- The Lord can graciously heal a man born a cripple
- The Lord can graciously heal a man, or a woman, born a sinner
- Jesus still puts His power on display

Thanksgiving is a great time to reflect on the gospel grace you've been given and the gospel grace you hope to share

Questions to Consider

Why is it important to deflect to Jesus in gospel presentations?

Why are gospel presentations that show guilt is inescapable necessary?

What are some reasons you can give for promoting the power of Jesus in your gospel presentations?

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