**The Name of Jesus**

*Acts 3-4*

**Introduction**

1. Upon the establishment of the church, the saved continued… (**Acts 2:42**)
	1. In apostles’ doctrine, Fellowship, Breaking of Bread, prayers.
	2. Fear of God in the midst of great displays of power through the apostles **(v. 43).**
		1. ***“Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe;” (NASB)***
		2. ***“were done”*** – verb, imperfect – indicating continuation of action.
2. **Acts 3** picks up with a specific case of wonders and signs performed through the apostles – introduces the conflict the early church experienced.
3. The miracles ***“were done THROUGH the apostles”*** – they were the instruments through which Jesus acted.
	1. As indicated by Peter regarding the tongue speaking – **(vv. 32-33)** – HE poured out what you see and hear.
	2. I.e. they were accomplished in His name – **Mark 16:17-18**
4. In the name of Jesus – **3:6, 16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 29-30**
	1. **Name** – “for all that a “name” implies, of authority, character, rank, majesty, power, excellence, etc., of everything that the “name” covers” (VINE)
	2. ***“By what power or by what name have you done this?” (4:7)***
		1. **Cf. Mark 2:5-12** – Jesus demonstrates His authority to forgive by demonstrating His miraculous power, which demonstrates that He is the very One to whom they said (accurately) the authority to forgive alone belongs **(v. 7).**
			1. **(v. 10)** – ***“power”*** – *exousia* – authority.
			2. **Miraculous power demonstrates and confirms Divine authority.**
		2. **4:12** – the miraculous power attributed to Jesus (denied to be that of the apostles themselves – **3:12**) demonstrates His ability to save.
5. The theme of **Acts 3-4** is ***“the name of Jesus,”*** or the working authority of Jesus in miracles, gospel preaching, and the saving of souls.
6. Truly, He has ***“the name which is above every name” (Philippians 2:9),*** and we see it displayed in our text.
7. Excels in its Offer **(3:1-10)**
8. Desperation of the man:
	1. **(3:2; 4:22)** – lame since birth, over 40.
	2. **(3:2)** – not only begging daily, but even dependent on the strength of others to provide opportunity to beg – “***was carried…they laid [him] daily”***
9. Anticipation of the man:
	1. **(3:2)** – daily asking alms of those entering – How many passed by regularly and didn’t give him anything?
	2. **(3:3-5)** – When Peter and John are asked, they looked at him, and sought his attention all the more.
		1. **(v. 4)** – Words of Peter may indicate the shifting eyes of the man, not necessarily confident of any particular person helping, but asking everyone he can, not willing to miss the opportunity to ask another by overly focusing on one. (Ask, ask the next, etc.)
		2. **(v. 5)** – this was at least different enough from the normal reaction that he fully expected to receive from them – alms/money.
10. Peter’s surprising statement, and the miracle:
	1. **(3:6a)** – no silver and gold.
		1. What about the collection? – **2:44-45; 4:35** – not on them? Not for just anyone (needy saints)?
		2. If not with him, could he not have managed to go get some money to bring back?
		3. **Something more important than that…**
	2. **(3:6b-10)** – Peter gave Him the ability to walk, and this was more than money could buy.
11. Context, both immediate and remote, reveals that offer was even greater than the gift of healing:
	1. ***“in the name of Jesus”*** – **(3:16; 4:9-10)** – this is Peter’s introduction of this man to Jesus – He only can give this to the man.
	2. **Miracles are always the lesser, signifying the greater** – **Mark 16:15-18** – the gospel of salvation, miracles signifying and confirming the validity of the message.
		1. Gospel would be preached – **3:11-26**
	3. **4:12** – Jesus has the power to save – this is the ultimate offer, and while the healing itself is a gift, it ultimately represents the mere confirmation of a greater offer.
		1. **Cf. John 20:22-23** – authority to forgive – through message of gospel.
12. See the offer with the greatest value – **John 6:26-27**
	1. **WE MUST NOT LET OUR DEFICIENCIES LOWER THE BAR OF OUR SATISFACTION.**
	2. This man received all he could ever dream of, but in the apostles’ understanding it was only the beginning of something far greater.
	3. Perhaps the man was part of the addition – **4:4**
13. Convicts to Forgive **(3:11-26)**
14. The miracle elevated the man and the crowd to great heights of excitement and awe – **3:8-11**
	1. NOTE: **(v. 1)** – hour of prayer – time of reverential silence and focus interrupted by pure, unstifled joy, and their certainty of who made the commotion, and why (**v. 10**).
15. Peter saw the crowd gather in amazement, and responded in a fashion that might surprise many – **those who had just experienced elated wonder he brought down with blunt conviction**:
	1. With the power of contrast – **(vv. 13-15)**
		1. God glorified Jesus – YOU delivered Him up to die.
		2. Pilate desired to let Him go – YOU refused to release Him.
		3. He was Holy and Just – YOU rejected him and released a murderer (not holy or just).
		4. He is the Prince of Life – YOU killed Him (took His life)
		5. The reaction would have been similar to that on Pentecost – **Acts 2:37** – ***“cut to the heart”***
	2. Good news – power of God to work His will through their evil (**cf. Acts 2:23; 3:18; 4:27-28)**:
		1. Glorified (**v. 13)** – exalted to glory on throne **(2:33)**
		2. Resurrected **(v. 15)** – *“****Prince of life”*** – raised to be sent **(v. 26**).
			1. ***“Originator” (NKJV, fn)***
			2. ***“Author of life” (ESV)***
		3. **3:16, 26** – It is the One that you murdered that healed this man (so He is alive and active), and He has been sent, not to destroy you, but to bless you.
16. The conviction was necessary to turn them to the solution:
	1. Negative to positive – **Jeremiah 1:9-10; 2 Timothy 4:2**
	2. **(3:15)** – the Author of Life is the solution, but they had to realize it was He who they rejected in order to find salvation.
	3. **(3:19)** – times of refreshing (relief from sin) await you, but only upon repentance and conversion.
		1. **Repent** – think differently, change of will – results in fruit, actions befitting – (**v. 26)** – blessing in turning away from sins.
		2. **Converted** – “to turn about, turn towards” (VINE)
			1. **Acts 26:18** – Paul’s preaching to turn (same as ***“converted”***) people from authority of Satan to God.
			2. Act of turning to God in submission.
			3. **Acts 26:14** – Paul an example of resisting authority resulting in harm.
			4. These people had resisted Jesus and killed Him – which killed them.
			5. They are to change their minds about Him now and turn themselves over to His rule – blessings ensue.
		3. **Acts 2:38** – parallel – Baptism is the initial “turning towards” in submission to the will of Jesus (**cf. 10:48** – command to be obeyed).
17. Emboldens the Feeble **(4:1-31)**
18. Jewish rulers, specifically Sadducees mentioned, were disturbed at the preaching of the resurrection of Jesus, and the great influence among the people – **(4:1-4)** – placed Peter and John in custody.
19. Questioned concerning the source of power, and authority for the miracle – **(4:7)**
	1. Intimidation – **4:5-7a** – ***“set them in the midst”*** – “middle” (STRONG) – ***“they had placed them in the center” (NASB)***
		1. Remember what had just happened months ago at the hands of these same rulers – murder of Jesus.
	2. Not questioning the miracle (though not admitting Divine origin) – **4:14, 16, 21-22**
	3. Question of power/authority – **4:7b**
		1. Remember the accusation against Jesus – **Luke 11:15** – power and authority from Beelzebub?
		2. Not only answer, but conviction of their own wrong – **4:8-11** – good deed (not lawless) done by Another (not us, and indicating His Divinity) that you murdered – God raised – He is active and reigns – chief cornerstone.
20. What engendered such boldness? – **4:13**
	1. ***“boldness”*** – *parrēsia* – *pas* (all), *rheō* (to utter or speak) – all out-spokenness (STRONG)
		1. Not holding anything back.
		2. Not ashamed.
		3. Confidence (ESV, NASB)
	2. Not their education (Jewish schools) or training (common, no rhetoric/speech).
	3. Fellowship with Jesus:
		1. **John 7:15** – same – He is God.
		2. They were trained by Jesus (God in flesh) – **John 6:45** – they had come to Him (disciples).
		3. Jesus never really left them – **John 14:16-18**
			1. ***“had been with”*** – but truly they continue to be with Jesus – **Matthew 28:20**
			2. THE JEWISH RULERS JUST CAN’T GET RID OF JESUS.
	4. The knowledge of truth promotes power, and confidence – **2 Timothy 1:7-8**
21. The name (authority) of Jesus VS the name of the Jewish rulers – **4:18-20**
	1. **Luke 12:4-7** (after telling them to stand opposed to the leaven of the Pharisees, their hypocrisy) – fear of God emboldens us in the face of opposition, and also calms us by the peace of His protection.
22. They had the spiritual armor, but still needed the power of prayer to appeal to the Almighty – **Ephesians 6:18; (4:23-31** – emboldened with God’s mighty hand again)
23. Unites the Diverse **(4:32-37)**
24. A Multitude of One Heart and Soul
	1. “Considering the large number of persons in this congregation, and the variety of social relations from which they had been suddenly drawn together, it is truly remarkable, and well worthy of a place in the record, that they were ‘of one heart and soul.’” (McGarvey, 79)
	2. United under One Master, they exhibited a love common among themselves, but beyond comparison in the world – **John 13:12-17, 34-35** – new commandment due to fresh and transcendent standard of Christ’s love on the cross.
25. Knit Together by the Powerful Grace of God **(v. 33)**
	1. Those who had one heart and soul were those who ***“believed”*** – **John 17:20-21** – One through belief in apostolic word.
	2. **(v. 33)** – That word continued to be preached, with accompanying miracles, with the powerful and evident presence of God’s grace – **11:23** (could be seen)

**Conclusion**

1. Truly, He has ***“the name which is above every name” (Philippians 2:9).***
2. His authority and power grants an exceptional offer, can forgive sins, can make the weak strong, and can draw the distant and different closer than ever thought possible.