

## **Acts 3:12-26**

12. Peter's address to them as Israelites and calling God the God of the patriarchs reminds them that they are the covenant people. His question about their surprise is a mild rebuke. If the prophets all predicted this time, and Jesus demonstrated His authority by doing miracles, why are they surprised now when Jesus continues to work through his servants? He emphasized that the miracle was not about them, their power or personal holiness. How different from so much of the "religious" world.

13. It's about God's now glorified servant Jesus! "The one you disowned and handed over to be killed." Peter didn't beat around the bush. Awestruck by the miracle, they get the one two punch from Peter. "Jesus did it. He's God's servant, now glorified. (Acts 2:33) You disowned Him." "God's Servant" has powerful connotations for Jews. Many of the prophets referred to themselves as servants of God. The predicted Messiah was referred to as The Servant. Isaiah 53:13f; 42:1-4 Jesus referred to Himself as a servant. Matthew 20:28

14. They preferred a murderer over their Messiah! Holy One is another Messianic title from Psalm 16:10. (Luke 4:34) Peter was making it clear that they were guilty of the most evil thing they could imagine, rejecting the servant Messiah.

15. Then he declared it as pointedly as anyone ever could. "You killed the author of life." *Archegos* (Hebrews 2:10; 12:2) Psalm 36:9 says that YHWH is the fountain of life. See John 1:4 Peter is boldly declaring that Jesus is God. Could they have been guiltier? Could there be a more heinous crime? But their murder was unsuccessful. God raised Him! The resurrection is proof that He is the source of life. The Apostles are witnesses of the resurrection, and that is their chief calling.

16. It was the Apostles' faith in the name of Jesus that brought about the miracle. Notice that faith comes through Jesus. That is why they did not take any credit. See verse 12 The healed man jumping up and down was evidence that they had made a horribly wrong decision.

17 – 18 After convicting them, he then offered them hope. This may be alluding to unintentional sin. Numbers 15:22-31; 1Corinthians 2:8 But they should have known better because the prophets foretold all of this. Peter clearly calls Jesus the Messiah (Christ). Just as we have seen in the Genesis stories, God can take the rebellion of man against Him and accomplish His will. Acts 2:23

MacArthur points out that in presenting their guilt, Peter has used a number of names for our Lord, servant, Jesus (Savior), Righteous and Holy One, Author of

Life, and Christ (Messiah). The truth about our spiritual condition must be presented before there is an invitation to repent and be saved.

19 REPENT: Turn around the way you think. In genuine sorrow for your sins, take a new direction in life. You've had your back to God, now turn to God. If you do, you will be forgiven. Acts 26:19,20 Ancient ink had no acid and could be wiped from vellum or papyrus with a damp rag. That is the picture presented of our sins being wiped away. Times of refreshing refers to the reign of Messiah. Peter is challenging them to think differently about their expectations of Messiah. They will be refreshed, but not in the way they thought with peace that came from military might. It is a peace of the heart and being right with God.

20 And then you can receive the Messiah, Jesus to be with you through life.

21 Jesus does not come in a physical way until the appointed time.

22-23 Peter backs up his message by a quote from Moses. Deuteronomy 18:15,18-19 Rejection of this prophet means being cut off from the covenant blessings. "This is the consequence for the Jewish person that rejects Jesus as Messiah," Moses wrote.

24 Just as Jesus told the Apostles that all the prophets wrote about Him, so now Peter conveys that same message to the crowd. Luke 24:44

25-26 They are heirs of the blessing that was to come through Abraham, which is the seed that would crush the serpent's head and bless the world, Jesus. The blessing had come. To be the recipients they had to accept the Messiah. This was a real shift in their thinking. It is a shift in many "Christians" thinking. We think of Jesus as saving us from hell. That is true, but the emphasis of the Holy Spirit in this sermon is saving us from our wicked ways.

Think about it. These Jewish people were very religious. They are in the Temple to pray. We know they do so regularly because they recognized the man that was healed. But the Holy Spirit called them Christ murderers, rejecters of truth, and those who refused to believe the prophets. Jesus came to save them from their wicked ways. He comes to save us from our wicked ways as well. Can we be church goers, but not accept what Jesus came to do in our lives? How can we tell that we have received the salvation He brought?