

“Placed” - Acts 3:12-26

Ask - “Have you ever failed to recognize someone that you should have known? Share.”

Background - Sometime after the day of Pentecost had passed, Peter and John went to the temple to pray. As they were about to enter, they encountered a lame man by the temple gate. After a brief interaction, Peter healed the man in the Lord’s name. An amazed crowd quickly gathered and Peter began to preach.

“The Power of Faith” - Acts 3:12-16

(v12-13) Read verses 1-11 for context. What question did Peter ask the crowd? What inability was he trying to communicate with this question? How was Peter’s description of Jesus specific to his Jewish audience?

(v14-15) How had the Jews treated Jesus? Who was the murderer they received in his place (Luke 23:18-25)? What fact had Peter and John witnessed?

(v16) To what did Peter attribute the lame man’s healing? How is faith connected to the working of miracles and healings (Read Matthew 13:58)?

PETER EXPLAINED TO THE CROWD THAT THE POWER BY WHICH THE LAME MAN HAD BEEN HEALED WAS THROUGH FAITH THE NAME OF JESUS, WHOM THE JEWS HAD CRUCIFIED BUT GOD HAD RESURRECTED.

“The Necessity of Repentance” - Acts 3:17-21

(v17) Did Peter charge the Jewish people and their rulers with knowingly crucifying their Messiah, Jesus Christ (Luke 23:34)?

(v18-19) What had Jesus fulfilled and how did this reveal his true identity? What did Peter urge the crowd to do and why? Notice that their ignorance (v17) did not excuse their guilt. Discuss.

(v20-21) Where had Jesus gone? When would he return? Who had foretold these events also?

PETER READILY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE JEWS HAD CRUCIFIED CHRIST IN THEIR IGNORANCE, YET STATED THEY WERE STILL GUILTY AND ACCOUNTABLE FOR IT. HE CALLED THEM TO REPENTANCE FOR THEIR SIN.

“The Preeminence of the Jews” - Acts 3:22-26

(v22-23) What revered Jewish prophet and leader did Peter cite? What was the

crux of Moses' prophetic message and who did it ultimately refer to (Deuteronomy 18:15)?

(v24-25) What other prophet and patriarch did Peter cite by name? What was the main promise of the Abrahamic Covenant and through whom was it fulfilled?

(v26) Who were the first to receive the promised covenantal blessing? How was this blessing to be bestowed?

GOD SENT HIS SON JESUS, THE PROMISED MESSIAH, WHO'S COMING HAD LONG BEEN PROPHESED AND WHO WOULD FINALLY FULFILL THE ANCIENT COVENANT, FIRST TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE.

Application - As Peter preached to the Jews, he was intentional in describing how Jesus had fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. For the most part, the Jews did not recognize Jesus as the coming Messiah and the seed of Abraham through whom the world would be blessed. Because they missed His identity as the Christ, they rejected the message and power of salvation that He offered. Sadly, the same thing is true today of most Orthodox Jews. Only a small percentage have accepted Jesus as the Messiah. Close by praying for the enlightenment of the Jewish people (and all the lost) to realize and receive Jesus and their Savior.