

IGNITE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

The Spreading Flame

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Acts 3

The Spirit has been poured out in and on believers in the church. Many have been converted after hearing the gospel proclaimed. Now Peter and John make their way to the Temple during the hour of prayer. Along the way, Peter and John responded to a God given opportunity and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. John Phillips sums up this chapter by saying...

The poor lame man is a cameo of the human race. Men are born lame, with no standing before God. They stumble and fall through life. They have nothing. The very best person in the world, outside of Christ is a hopeless spiritual cripple, born that way; the wealthiest man is a spiritual beggar. (John Phillips)

There is nothing like a changed life to draw a crowd. Today I encourage you to respond to God-given opportunities and share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lives will be changed and people will glorify God.

Key Thought: Peter and John responded to a God-given opportunity and shared the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. Be sensitive to gospel opportunities (verses 1-11)

Gospel opportunities can be...

- **Intentional**

“We often miss opportunity because it’s dressed in overalls and looks like work”
— Thomas Edison

- **Unintentional**

John 9:4 (NASB95)

We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

2. Be specific when presenting the gospel (verses 12-26)

Peter's second sermon teaches us to be specific in presenting the gospel.

- A point of connection (verses 12-13)
- A point of conviction (verses 14-15)

In a flash, Peter had the crowd at Calvary, face to face with their crime!

- Our guilt
- His grace

Peter wasted no time in turning the gathering of the crowd to full advantage. Peter directed everyone's attention to Christ. In this short sermon he made ten direct references to Christ.

- A point of consideration (verses 16-18)
 - Ephesians 2:8-9
- A point of clarification (verses 19-22)
 - Repentance
 - Response
 - Refreshing
- A point of contemplation (verses 23-26)

Practical Steps

- Write down the name of 1 person you know who needs Christ.
- Write down a missed opportunity you had this past week to share Christ. Ask God to “redeem” the opportunity.
- Identify two places that God has provided as natural “opportunities” to share Christ.
- Prayerfully ask God to help you be sensitive to gospel opportunities.