

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Part 9 – The Bigger Picture

Acts 3.11-26

Misplaced Focus

- Celebrity – giving credit where credit is NOT due (v.11-12)
 - It's *just* Peter and John – don't mistake piety and power for deity
 - Whatever notoriety you have – is it annoying or opportunity?
- Benefits – receiving without relationship (v.16-17)
 - Faith “in His name” means embracing all of who He is, not simply employing His name when it's convenient, beneficial, or acceptable

God is consistently telling a bigger story - MOON

- It is a story of His faithfulness (v.13, 22-26)
 - What God has been saying and doing He is saying and doing now through Jesus (John 5.39)
- It is a story of substitution (v.14-15)
 - We judged Him guilty when we were the guilty ones
 - God judged Him worthy when we judged Him unworthy
- It is a story of pursuit (v.17-18)
 - Ignorance is a reason but is no excuse
 - Ignorance still exists today KAMBIZ
 - Jesus as teacher – historical figure – religious relic – secret ingredient – white Republican – political revolutionary – irrelevant idiot – spiritual Messiah (nothing to do with real life)
 - They couldn't fathom a world where the Messiah would suffer – not who we want Him to be; He is who He says He is
 - The reason for their ignorance – they didn't read their Bibles
 - God had already pursued them and currently pursuing them by pointing to all He had already said and done
- It is a story of restoration (v.21)
 - There are things in the world that are not right – Jesus will return to set them right (and we work toward that end until He does)
 - The healing of the man is a sign of what is to come – broken and useless becomes walking and leaping and praising

What is our response?

- Turn (v.19)
- When we do, our sins are forgiven (v.19)
 - Blotted out – cancelled (Col. 2.14), overwritten, wiped away (Rev. 21.4)
- When we do, times of refreshing come (v.20)

Questions for Discussion

1. Out of the people you know, are they more likely to focus on celebrity (who they idolize) or benefit (what they receive)? How does that express itself? How about you personally? Any examples of this from the Christian perspective?
2. What are some examples of spiritual ignorance you have seen in those around you? Out of the list above (Jesus as teacher, historical figure, etc.), which do you think is most prevalent in the people you know? What do you owe them to dispel that myth?
3. The reason substitution, pursuit, and restoration are such great news is because of what Jesus has accomplished for us. According to Colossians 2.13-14, how did the death of Jesus display all three (substitution, pursuit, and restoration)? How do you picture God "blotting out" (Acts 3.19) our sins in light of this?
4. What kinds of "times of refreshing" (Acts 3.20) do you / your family need right now? Do you tend to mostly need spiritual, emotional, relational, or physical refreshing?
5. Please take time and pray for the lost person / people that we have prayed for on Sunday mornings. Share a way in which you hope to engage them with an invitation, testimony, and/or the Gospel this week.