

# “What’s in the Name of Jesus?!”

## Act 3 (3:11-26)

**Intro.** – It was a dinner party and two women had just been introduced to each other. “Oh, yes,” said one of them in a sweet tone, “We met two years ago at the Johnson’s – I’m terrible at remembering names, but, I never forget a dress.”

We use this to illustrate the idea you can forget just about anything about a person, but you better not forget, misspell or mispronounce a person’s name.

Let me illustrate this further from a personal experience. A lady came up to me and began a conversation right in the midst of a busy church activity. I had met this lady once, as we had only lived in the area working with this church for two weeks. In the middle of the conversation, this lady looks at me and sternly says, “You don’t remember my name do you?” At first thought she was joking, but, by her look and voice she meant business. I quickly admitted that “yes” I did not remember her name and that I would do my best to remember her name thereafter. She told me her name and I repeated it several times, apologizing as I repeated it. Then I said, “Ruby Kurtner, again I’ll do better next time we meet, but, you know my family and I have dozens of names to place with faces and I’m not so sure people are not having trouble remembering our names. Why, Ruby Kurtner do you remember my name?” Stone silence – she did not know my name!

Such is a extreme illus., but, people don’t take well to their name being forgotten. Why? Why are names so important to us? Why do we put so much stock in a name? Are our names really all that important?

### **Purpose: to better understand the significance of our Lord’s names**

1<sup>st</sup> Century Christians were intent that the name of Jesus Christ be lifted up. Today, Christians must be just as intent in this. Acts 3 gives us a wonderful *Back to the Basics* outline as to what all is involved with our Lord’s names. The following three points make this abundantly clear:

## **I Utter AMAZEMENT (3:1-10)**

### **A. A Healing Takes Place (vv 1-8)**

1. Peter and John were often found together – e.g. (business partners... prepared Last Supper... ran to tomb together...)
2. 9<sup>th</sup> hour (3 PM) of prayer – they are on way to Temple (still keeping Jewish practices because of the ready-made audience to preach and teach...)
3. “A certain man” – lame from birth:
  - a. no imaginary ailment... was a legit prospect for “a healing”...
  - b. brought daily to beg... everyone familiar with him...
4. “Silver and gold have we none...”:
  - a. Peter/John not interested giving this man money and keeping him in his present condition
  - b. they had something to get him out of his present condition...
5. “In the name of Jesus “ i.e. “by the authority” or “by virtue of the power derived from Him...”
6. “Walk” = (peripateo) = “walk around” – immediately his feet and ankles strengthened and began walking and leaping and praising God...

### **B. The Resulting Reaction (vv 9-10)**

1. All the people saw him – very public matter – during the hour of prayer (reflective time) all of sudden this beggar starts walking, leaping and praising God...
2. There was no mistaking who this was:
  - Illus. – individual approached man: “My, how you’ve changed. You use to have thick, black hair... use to have dark complexion now you’re pale... use to be muscular... I’m stunned at your change, Mr. Jones.” The man quickly responded and said, “But I’m not Mr. Jones.” Other responded, “You mean you’ve changed your name too?”
3. Absolutely no mistake who this walking, leaping and praising man was – beggar at gate!
4. Filled with wonder/amazement – man born lame, known by all, walking/leaping/praising God!

- a. Illus. – recently in courtroom, 2 attorneys began arguing over a case. It escalated to name calling. 1<sup>st</sup> lawyer said, “You’re a loop-brained shyster.” 2<sup>nd</sup> lawyer responded, “And you’re an ambulance-chasing cockroach.” Courtroom was in utter amazement until the Judge said, “Now that you two have introduced yourselves to the court, you may now proceed.”
- b. here was born lame, known by all never to have walked... walking/leaping and...  
Utter amazement resulted because of Whom? Jesus!

## II A Scathing INDICTMENT (3:11-16)

- this section begins Peter’s 2<sup>nd</sup> recorded Gospel message:
  - A. A Crowd Gathered
    1. The miraculous healing of a lame man drew a crowd.
    2. Solomon’s Porch = east side of Temple called this because fragments of Solomon’s temple used in rebuilding of temple...
  - B. Peter Refutes a False Notion
    1. Peter immediately identifies Jesus as the source of the miracle and not Peter himself...
    2. V 16 Peter simply says, “*in the name of Jesus...*” = Peter refutes a false notion...
  - C. Peter Reminds Them of the Past
    1. In the past they denied Jesus and delivered Him to be crucified in exchange for a murder...
    2. To persuade further of their guilt, check names used: disowned the “Righteous One”; put to death the “Prince of Life”; delivered up “the servant/child/Son of God”
      - point being this was no ordinary man give to Romans... this was Messiah!
    3. Calvary was Satan’s/man’s last word BUT the empty tomb is God’s
      - a. glorified His Son by raising Him from the dead never see death again, sent Holy Spirit Who now was at work = the healing of the beggar was proof that Jesus is alive!
      - b. if ever people were guilty... but, this includes you and me...
    4. Peter turned the Temple into a courtroom
      - a. imagine the thoughts of these who witnessed this miracle of a lame man walking?
      - b. point is must get one lost before they can be saved – convicting people their sin and need for Savior is H.S.’s job BUT God uses us to open His Word...
    5. Most today compare themselves to others and not to Christ – such is the reason behind the scathing indictment given here in Acts 3

## III A Blessed HOPE (3:17-26)

- Peter didn’t leave people without hope – having announced the crime, presented the evidence and explained the nature of their sin (ignorance), Peter presents God’s gift – GRACE:
  - A. A Call to Repentance
    1. Military term = “about face” = 180 degree turn
    2. Much more than feeling sorry... feeling sorry is more times than not *regret* in getting caught...
    3. True repentance is a change of intellect, will, emotions... not one time decision... daily...
  - B. A Call to Return
    1. KJV poor trans. “be converted” making it something passive... active imperative = responsibility
    2. “return” = to path from which one has strayed... “restored” is better translation here...
    3. Saved BY GRACE, THRU FAITH, AT BAPTISM
    4. “Return” = good summary to the whole process of forgiveness and redemption...
  - C. Promised Results
    1. “Sins will be wiped away” = similar to idea of “remission of sins”

- Illus. – business term where creditor removes from the records that a debt has been paid in full... often records kept on tablets covered with wax...

2. “Times of refreshing” = “peace” or “blessed hope”

All of which revolves around Jesus, His name means SAVIOR

**Conclusion:** An Indian chief petitioned a Judge of an Arizona court to grant him a shorter name. “What is your name now?” asked the Judge. “Chief Screeching Train Whistle,” said the chief. “And to what do you wish to shorten it?” asked the Judge. The Indian folded his arms and majestically grunted, “Toots!”

Why do we put so much stock in names? Why are names that important to us? What’s in the names of our Lord? There is more than identity in a name. This is especially true of Jesus’ names:

1. There is Utter AMAZEMENT
2. There is SCATHING INDICTMENT
3. There is BLESSED HOPE.

“The Name of Jesus”  
The name of Jesus is so sweet,  
I love it’s music to repeat.  
It makes my joy full and complete,  
The precious name of Jesus.  
Jesus, oh how sweet the name,  
Jesus, every day the same.  
Jesus, let all saints proclaim,  
Its worthy praise forever!