

Explanation of the Restoration

I. Pre Service Greeting:

- A. **Good morning:** Kel & I wanted to greet you, just back last Sun from Israel. (virtual hug)
- B. **And as we submit to our governing authorities & *shelter in place*** please know... *God is ignoring quarantine and continues being everywhere present!*
- C. **This is a time when** our **orthodoxy** can be **highlighted** by our **orthopraxy**.
 1. **Orthodoxy** (correct **beliefs**) **Orthopraxy** (correct **practice**).
 2. At times like this, it's all the more time for **believers** to **practice what we preach**
 3. The **title** of the book of **Acts** comes from the Greek word **praxis**, describing the great **deeds** of the apostles.
- D. **My devo this morn:** Ps.21:13 **Rise up, O Lord, in all your power. With music and singing we celebrate your mighty acts.**

II. Slide1 Announce:

- A. As the original church in Acts went physically *house to house to teach & preach that Jesus is Messiah*, **now** we follow suit in doing that **digitally online**. Besides our **online streaming services**, our **front office will be open** M-Th 8-4pm to meet the needs of our church family & our community. **All** of our *in-person ministries* are on **pause**.
 1. **All** of our ministries are actively **working on online options** in order to **continue to be connected**.
- B. **To our elderly community: If you need help** let us know, need a meal, shopping done, pharmacy run, we want to help.
- C. **Finances:** TY last week **online** giving. TY for the **walk in** gifts. We cut expenses as far as we could this week. **All staff** has taken financial cuts, **some** have been *temporarily laid off*. **We are still trying to operate with a skeleton staff of just a few throughout the week.**
 1. **But** I want you to know we are **still helping folks** & will be here for as long as we're allowed. **So please be praying for our staff.** **And** as you can continue to be generous through **online giving** **or** **Mon-Thurs drop off** at front office. **TY for your sacrifice & TY for your faith** in that.

- D. **Prayer:** God please **stop** the **spread of this virus**. May our **faith** become a contagion. May we get back to asking, *give us THIS DAY our daily bread*. Give us *hearts-of-thanks* for the **little things** once again.

III. Slide2,3 **Intro:** *Explanation of the Restoration*

- A. **Big Idea:** As God **uses us**, how do we keep *eyes-off-of-us*, and **onto Jesus**?
1. Disavow any power is from you. Reject peoples praise. Help them to Look to **Jesus**. Explain, it happened through Christ name.
- B. **Slide4 Backstory:** In the 1st part of the chapter we had Pete/Jn walking up to the Temple & encountering a paralyzed man that was begging. After getting his attention, Peter said, *I have no silver and gold, but what I do have a give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!* [walking - leaping - praising God...& *hanging on Pete/Jn*]

IV. Slide5 **PETER SETS THE HOOK (11-16)**

- A. **Slide6 Solomon's porch** – portico, colonnade.
1. Columns, covered area, all around Temple mount. On Eastside (opposite side Western/Wailing Wall).
- B. **I want to remind us, sermons** are not God's primary method for **reaching people**. **People** are His method for **reaching people**.
1. **Imperfect people, men & women, who have learned to walk in moment-by-moment dependence on the Holy Spirit.** Christians who have come to terms with their *inadequacies, fears, and failures*. [like Peter here]
- C. **Slide7a DISAVOW ANY POWER IS FROM YOU** [REJECT PEOPLES PRAISE]
1. Peter quickly pointed out to them, *you're concentrating on the wrong thing.*
 - a) Don't steal **The Glory...even a little**.
 - b) It's not the **miracle** that is important, the vital thing is **to which** it points.
- D. **Every active Christian is faced with this dilemma...** How do you get the attention on **Jesus** when **you're** the one doing *the good deed*?
1. When you do a **good deed** for someone, how will they know if it's **from you** or because of what **Jesus** has done **in you**?

2. How can we point to **Jesus** w/o it being **cheesy**? [cheesy: *no, no, it wasn't me it was **Jesus!***]

3. **Non-Cheesy**: Pray on exactly how you should **make Him known**.

- a) **Ex**: I remember once a guy needed gas that I picked up on a fry off ramp. I had just filled my gas can for my mower. He said, *most people won't stop, but **you did!*** I explained I thought the Lord told me to stop & help him. *Oh, are you a Christian?* he asked, I answered. And he said, *I used to be...*

E. Peter helped them understand the true power **behind** the miracle.

1. He explained it was **not** some **inherent power** in himself or John.

F. **Slide7b EXPLAIN, IT HAPPENED THROUGH CHRIST'S NAME**

1. Help them First to look to the **Father**.

- a) Know your audience – Peter knew his audience & thus doesn't start with **Jesus**, but with **the Father**. *The **God of Abraham**, the **God of Isaac**, and the **God of Jacob**, the **God of our fathers**, glorified his servant **Jesus**.*

2. Help them then to look to **Jesus**.

- a) The most remarkable feature of Peters 2nd sermon, *just like the 1st*, is **Christ-centeredness**.
- b) He directed the crowds attention **away from both** the healed cripple **and** the apostles, **to Christ**.
- c) Look at the **cluster** of significant titles: *Jesus Christ of Nazareth* (6). *God's Servant* (13). *The Holy and Righteous One* (14). *The Author of Life* (15). *The Prophet* foretold by Moses (22).

3. **Slide7c** (16) And **his name** - by faith in **his name** - has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

- a) **Names** come to stand for one's **character** and **power**. What comes to mind when you hear these names: *JFK. MLK. Billy Graham. President Trump. Tom Brady.*
(1) Each associated with a certain level of **character & power**.

- b) Slide8 May we have *a flaming earnestness of belief in the power of the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

V. Slide9 PETER DRAWS THE NET (17-26)

A. CHANGE YOUR WAYS & TURN TO FACE GOD

1. Peter knew many of them wanted to *get in touch with the power of Jesus* that they had seen with their own eyes. (see 4:4)

B. Slide10a Repent – change one’s mind, think again.

1. Repent of *killing the Messiah*, even though you may have been ignorant of what you were doing at the time. [your sins killed Jesus]

C. Slide10b Be converted – turn to God. (The Greek word is in the **active voice**, implying, *a very definite move on the part of man towards God*)

D. 3-Fold result of repentance: [good news! *really good news!*]

1. Slide10c Sins blotted out - *exel-AY-pho* - wash off, erase, obliterate.

Slide11 William Barclay, “Ancient writing was upon papyrus, and the *ink* used had **no acid** in it. It therefore did not bite into the papyrus as modern ink does; it’s simply lay upon the top of it. To erase the writing, a man might take a wet sponge and simply **wipe it away**.” [or blot it out, or he simply *wipes the slate clean*]

- a) No more need for an **annual** day of atonement, because *He has taken away all our sins.*

- b) Example: You can pay this year \$51 for a Fishing License. But if someone offered to pay for a **lifetime license** (\$562) wouldn’t you be foolish to refuse it? [Jesus has paid the full price for what you owed]

2. Slide12a Times of refreshing. *ANAP-soo-sys* - can mean *rest, relief, respite, or refreshment*. It’s the positive counterpart to forgiveness. As God does not **wipe away our sins** without adding his **refreshment** for our spirits.

- a) It will come from the presence of Jesus in your life.

3. Slide12b Enjoy *2nd Coming of Christ* - hope for now, hope for our future.

E. Slide13 The Peter wraps up with a **3-fold prophetic strand**: *Moses, Samuel & Abraham*

1. It's a *united testimony* that *weaves a biblical tapestry* of **Jesus**, through all of the prophets, spanning the whole OT.

2. *And look how he wraps up w/vs.26*, so personal to his hearers.

God, having raised up his servant (Jesus), sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.

a) *Result???* 4:4 *But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about **five thousand**.*

F. **Big Idea:** As God uses us, how do we keep eyes off of us, and onto **Jesus**?

1. Disavow any power is from you. Help them to Look to **Jesus**. Explain, it happened *through Christ name*.

2. *See man is simply a channel/conduit linked to a Divine Supply Line.*

a) **Slide14** Warren Wiersbe said, *Ministry takes place when **divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the Glory of God.***¹

b) **So saints**...esp during our *trying times* right now...*Reveal the Source & Be the Channel*. [it's orthopraxy, correct practice]

¹ Warren Wiersbe, On Being a Servant of God, Chapter 1.