



Week 3 -- The Mighty Work and the Mighty Word

Acts 2:42 - 4:22

Acts 2:42-47 functions as a conclusion to the Pentecost event, but also to set the stage for the extended story that Luke shares in chapters 3 & 4.

1) *Does our life reflect the communal qualities found here? Do we need to reflect them?*

2) *Identify some aspects of the believer's life in this passage that you also see in 3:1-10.*

Acts 3:1-10 The Mighty Work -- healing a man lame from birth

Miracles of healing in Luke's first volume (Gospel of Luke) and his second volume (Acts) perform similar functions. They are signposts to the Kingdom of God inaugurated by Jesus Christ. Put differently, they reveal what life looks like when God is in charge.

3) *What does mean to do something "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth"? How does this connect with Luke's introductory statement in Acts 1:1?*

4) *What function does this miracle play in the history of the church? Should we expect such miracles today...are they even possible? In what sense do we act "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" individually or corporately?*

Acts 3:11-4:4 The Mighty Word part I -- explaining the miracle to the people

The Mighty Work of healing goes viral, and the people are astonished. Peter's response (along with the other speeches, Acts 2:40) should be considered Luke's summary of the basic message he gave, not a word-for-word transcription.

5) *Even granting that Peter may have had more space in his actual sermon, his approach here strikes modern readers as very direct and harsh, yet it produced great fruit. Why do you think Peter took this approach? Should we also adopt this approach in evangelism today? How can we accommodate new cultural settings/dynamics without changing the gospel?*

Acts 4:5-22 The Mighty Word part II -- explaining the miracle to the Jewish authorities

This healing takes place in the Temple, which adds another layer of significance. It creates a stark comparison between the power and authority of Jesus and that of the religious establishment of Israel. It is evident that the gospel of Jesus has political implications.

6) *What are the "rulers, elders and teachers of the law" afraid of in Peter's preaching?*

7) *Luke clearly portrays the healing ministry and preaching ministry of the church as being connected through the power of the Holy Spirit. Can the church's activity and proclamation be similarly connected today? (Think both within and outside of the Sunday sermon format.)*