



# #7 JESUS' COURAGE

ACTS 3:11-26

10.6.2013

## INTRODUCTION

- **Q.** How many of you would be very glad to receive some courage?
- If you're like me, a lot of times we tend to be cowardly more than courageous.
- This brings us to **ACTS 3:11-26** where we see Peter stand up in front of a crowd of people to boldly and courageously proclaim the message of the gospel to them.
- **TURN AND READ ACTS 3:11-26.**
- **Q.** Do you see how courageous Peter is? Why is he courageous? That's what we're going to look at. What can we learn from this?

This is what we learn from Peter, here:

## WE CAN BE COURAGEOUS BECAUSE JESUS IS THE HERO, NOT US

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or **why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety (holiness) we have made him walk?**"

### EXPLAIN

- Something amazing happened (a crippled man was healed). Everyone is utterly astounded, staring at Peter, John, and the healed man.
- **Q.** What does Peter say, Ekklesia? **A.** He points them to Jesus!

Peter is able to courageously stand up and proclaim the gospel to these people because he knows that Jesus is the Hero, not him.

Peter's not the hero. I am not the hero. You are not the hero. Jesus is the Hero!

### ILLUSTRATE

- **Imagine the world took a bad turn**, there was a shortage of food and water, and the whole world is starving and dying of thirst.
- **Then a man came to you**, gave you water and food, and told you that he has enough to feed and give drink to everyone on the face of the planet. He then sends you out to tell others!
- **Q.** Who's the hero in this situation? **Q.** What are you going to tell people as you go?

### APPLY

- **Here's the problem:** we all too often live as though this whole thing is riding on us, when, in fact, this whole thing is riding on Jesus!

The message of Christianity is not "do something for Jesus."

The message of Christianity is "Jesus has done everything for us!"

So, **Q.** Why can we as Christians be courageous? **A.** Because Jesus is the hero, not us.

Now, Peter starts explaining how Jesus is the Hero!

Number 1, Peter tells us

## 1. JESUS IS THE SUFFERING SERVANT

**13** The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

### EXPLAIN

- Peter says, Jesus is the Servant of God that was delivered (over to death).
- **700 years prior, God promised through the prophet Isaiah (in chapters 52-53)** that He would send his servant, and that this servant would suffer and die to pay for the sins of his people.
- That's why Jesus said things like this in **MARK 10:45** "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

### ILLUSTRATE

- All of the false, demon-gods, that head up all of the religions in the world, exist for you to serve them.
- Jesus came to serve. Jesus came to die for our sin, because He loves us and wants to forgive us.
- Jesus is the Suffering Servant.

Number 2, Peter says

## 2. JESUS IS THE HOLY & RIGHTEOUS ONE

**14** But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

### EXPLAIN

**Q.** How many does Peter say are Holy and Righteous? **Jesus is in a category unto himself!**

Might I submit to you that people in the West don't really think they're that bad.

**ROMANS 3:10-18** "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes."

### ILLUSTRATE

- **God has two categories:** Righteous/Unrighteous, Holy/Unholy.

### APPLY

- **Here's the truth and the Good News**

**God's demand** = be righteous.

**God's diagnosis** = no one is righteous.

**God's deliverance** = Jesus is our righteousness.

## 3. JESUS IS THE RESURRECTED AUTHOR OF LIFE

15 and you killed **the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.** To this we are witnesses.

### EXPLAIN

- **Q.** Did you notice this oxymoron? “You killed the Author of life.”
- **This is the crazy good news of the gospel:** Jesus, who is the Author of life, entered into human history by becoming human. Fully God/Fully Man.  
**Jesus came to give us life!**
- **Q.** What did we do when Jesus came? We killed him. (But that was the plan the whole time)
- **Then, the unthinkable happened,** Jesus resurrected from the dead to eternal life!
- Because Jesus conquered Satan, sin and death; because He is alive, He gives life.

### ILLUSTRATE

- **Because of our sin, you and I don’t have spiritual life in and of ourselves.**  
Without Jesus, we’re spiritually dead. Dead.
- **Think of a branch:** it doesn’t matter how good the branch looks on the outside, if it’s not connected to a tree. It’s dead. *We’re like that.*
- **Jesus is like a Big Strong Vibrant Tree:** He’s got life, and we need him to plug us into his life.
- Jesus says it like this in **John 15:5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

### APPLY

- **We don’t give life to ourselves, we don’t give life to others.**  
We introduce people to the Author of life, who was killed for our sins, but is resurrected for our salvation!

## 4. JESUS IS THE OBJECT OF OUR FAITH

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.

### EXPLAIN

- Peter is explaining that Jesus is the one who healed this man, and he and John had faith that Jesus would.

Your faith does not save you; the object of your faith saves you.

The question is not “Do you have faith?”

The question is “What (or who) have you placed your faith in?”

The object of our our faith has to be strong enough to save.

### ILLUSTRATE

- **Imagine you’re floating down a river** and you realize you’re about to fall off a deadly waterfall.

### APPLY

- **Q.** Which object have you placed your faith in?  
Your “good” things you’ve done? Praying a prayer? Baptism? Church attendance?

## 5. JESUS IS THE CHRIST (MESSIAH)

17 “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that **his Christ** would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

### EXPLAIN

- The Messiah means “a royal anointed figure.” For thousands of years, God had been promising that the Christ would come.
- The Messiah was promised to be like us, but better. The One who would come and put everything right- make everything sad come untrue. **He’d be the Savior, Redeemer, Rescuer, King!**
- **Our world loves the idea of the Messiah!**

### ILLUSTRATE

- Think about every 4 years when we elect a President.
- Think about the stories that our culture cranks out. \**Superman*

### APPLY

- **We don’t need myths, we need a Messiah! It’s Jesus!**

### EXPLAIN “SINS BLOTTED OUT”

- Look what Peter says the Messiah will do when he becomes the object of our faith:  
**19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,**
- **In Peter’s day their paper and ink was different than ours.**  
They would write on stuff called Papyrus and the ink wouldn’t have any acid in it.  
So, if they wanted to erase something, they’d get a wet rag and they could wash it clean.

### ILLUSTRATE “SINS BLOTTED OUT”

- Imagine sitting down with Jesus and a piece of paper, and he writes down every single sin you’ve ever committed and will ever commit.
- **And he finishes writing (finally)** and looks at you and says, “Because I died for these, I can wash them all away. And he washes the paper clean.
- **In Christ, you can be forgiven- totally forgiven. You can’t get more forgiven than *totally* forgiven.**

### EXPLAIN “TIMES OF REFRESHING AND MADE NEW”

- Peter also says that Jesus will bring times of refreshing *NOW* and that all things will be made new *LATER*.  
**20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things...**
- So, Jesus refreshes us now and will perfect us later.

### ILLUSTRATE “TIMES OF REFRESHING AND MADE NEW”

- A few years ago I was with some friends and we were hiking up this mountain (large hill) in southwestern, OK.
- **Q. Are you tired? Q. Are you thirsty? I’ve got good news: Jesus, the Messiah, comes to refresh you.**
- **Jesus meets us where we’re at, brings times of refreshing and then one day will make all things new.**
- **Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah!**

And finally, number 6, Peter says

## 6. JESUS IS THE PROPHET LIKE MOSES AND THE OFFSPRING THAT BLESSES

22 Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’ 24 And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. 25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’ 26 God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

### CLOSING

#### NON-CHRISTIAN

- Jesus must be killed or crowned (you need to repent!)
- Jesus will wipe your sins away (place your faith in Jesus!)
- Jesus will bring you times of refreshing
- Jesus will one day restore all things

#### CHRISTIAN

- Jesus wants you to be courageous (**Q**. Was Peter always courageous? **NO!**)
- Jesus has wiped your sins away (you can't be more forgiven than totally forgiven)
- Jesus has brought you times of refreshing (drink deep!)
- Jesus will one day restore all things (keep looking to Jesus, the Hero)