

What Are People Expecting?

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Acts 3:1-10

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Synopsis:

World Communion Sunday

-not just world in communion

-world celebrating Jesus in Deed (Sacrament) and Word

We often separate the two: Doing and Speaking.

Center of Christian faith is Deeds: Jesus *saves, heals*.

Words, Jesus *saves, heals*.

Let's take a look at the story of Peter, John, and a lame man, so that we may experience the Spirit's power to heal people through those who act and speak in the name of Jesus.

I.

Expectations

Acts 3:1 "Look at us!" And he fixed his attention on them

Roll the movie:

-READ vv 1-3 all imperfect verbs, sense of ongoing action

-READ v 4 imperative "Look at us!"

What are people expecting?

-The lame? (Outsider) = alms, more?

-Peter and John? (Insiders) = never done this before?

What do people *out there* expect Jesus, church to do?

What do we *in here* expect Jesus, church to do?

E.g. John Wimber, Vineyard story

Question: "Where's the stuff?"

Answer: "Oh, that doesn't happen anymore."

Reply: "I gave up drugs for this?"

What happens in Christian ministry?

Do we expect anything to happen anymore?

What if something did happen?

II.

Results

Acts 3:6 “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk”

Acts and Speeches in the book of Acts

- Always go together
- Actions precede Speeches

Pentecost: Acts 2

Languages

What is it? Speech

Reaction

Community

Here: Acts 3-4

Healing 3:1-10

What is it? Speech 3:11-26 (v12)

Reaction 4:1-37

Anger 1-22 (v2)

Joy 23-31 (v31)

Community 32-37 (v32)

What happens if we separate *action* and *words*?

Action alone = social work = stuff but no words (vv 9-10)

- Nothing wrong with this, but not good news of Jesus
- Presbyterian Church good at this: hospitals
- YMCA: deeds, bodies, no proclamation
- Kiwanis, Rotary, etc.
- Dale House (apply for United Way grant)

Words alone = propaganda

- Market Square Mall
- Learn to preach in seminary
- Bible Study alone, more classes
- *words but no stuff

Action and Words: Paradigm = 3:16 translate

“And it is upon the faith of *his* name, this one whom you see and know, *his* name has made *him* strong; and the faith which comes through *him* has given to *him* this wholeness before all of you.”

Whose faith? The text is ambiguous

Who is him? The beggar or Jesus?

Here's the good news:

1. Action in the name of Jesus = healing
2. Word in the name of Jesus = God is present
3. Faith = in a person of power
4. Community = new family

Action and Words brings Faith

After college: Paul Bankston (action) there with Jesus (word)
Healing, wholeness, name of Jesus
-wasn't words, but deeds and words
Brings both conflict and community
-left Tenn, found a new family

III.

Reaction to Results

Acts 4:3 So they arrested them

Acts 4:24 They raised their voices together

Good News of Jesus brings *Anger* and *Praise*

Anger: 4:1-22 upsets the status quo (v3)

Praise: 4:23-31 joy that God is present (v31)

IV.

Good News in Deed and Word

Acts 3:6 "In the name of Jesus, stand up and walk"

Table and Pulpit: Deed and Word

Always at center of faith

Today celebrate both

Here's what to do: *Do* it and *Name* it!