



## Summary

This powerful exploration of Acts chapter 3 reveals a transformative pattern for sharing the gospel that remains as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago. We discover that divine appointments aren't always accompanied by rushing winds and tongues of fire—sometimes they happen at temple gates during ordinary prayer times. The healing of a man crippled for 40 years becomes our window into understanding how the Holy Spirit orchestrates both sides of every gospel encounter. What's remarkable is that this man asked for alms but received legs instead, a beautiful picture of how God's provision exceeds our expectations. We learn that successful gospel presentation isn't measured by crowd response but by our faithfulness to say what the Holy Spirit gives us to say. The pattern unfolds clearly: recognize divine appointments, convict of sin, reveal the possibility of forgiveness, provide the remedy of repentance and new birth, prove the biblical basis, and prepare for opposition. Perhaps most liberating is the reminder that we don't need human mediators—we have direct access to God through Christ. This message challenges us to move beyond fear of offense and trust that the Holy Spirit knows our audience better than we do, working in both speaker and listener to accomplish His purposes.





## Points

Title: The Pattern of Gospel Presentation: Learning from Peter's Example

Sermon Summary:

- This sermon examines the second gospel presentation by Peter in Acts chapter 3, revealing a consistent biblical pattern for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the miraculous healing of a man lame from birth, the message demonstrates that effective gospel presentation involves recognizing divine appointments orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, who always works both sides of any evangelistic encounter. The sermon emphasizes that success in sharing the gospel is not measured by the number of conversions but by faithfulness to speak what the Holy Spirit provides. Peter's example shows that gospel presentation must include conviction of sin, the possibility of forgiveness, the remedy of repentance and being born again, biblical exposition proving God's plan of salvation, and preparation for opposition. The message challenges believers to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading, to understand that religious traditionalism often opposes the true gospel, and to rejoice in the opportunity to participate in God's redemptive work, knowing that heaven celebrates over one sinner who repents.

Key Points:

- - Divine appointments are orchestrated by the Holy Spirit who works both sides of the evangelistic encounter
- - The Holy Spirit provides spiritual gifts (word of knowledge, faith, wisdom, healing, miracles) to facilitate gospel presentation
- - Success in sharing the gospel is measured by faithfulness to the Holy Spirit's leading, not by visible results
- - The pattern of gospel presentation includes: divine appointment, conviction of sin, revelation of forgiveness possibility, remedy of repentance and new birth, biblical exposition, and expectation of opposition
- - People must know what they are being saved from in order to be saved
- - The parable of the soils teaches that only one in four may be fully prepared to receive the gospel message
- - Religious traditionalism and works-based salvation systems oppose the simplicity of salvation through faith in Christ alone
- - There is only one mediator between God and man: Jesus Christ
- - Pastors must teach the whole counsel of God so people can read, learn, and apply Scripture themselves
- - Heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents

Scripture Reference:

- - Acts 3:1-26 (primary passage)
- - Acts 4:1-4
- - 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (spiritual gifts)
- - Matthew 13:18-23 (parable of the soils)
- - John 16 (Holy Spirit's work of conviction)
- - Luke 23:34 (Father, forgive them)
- - Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (prophet like Moses)
- - Galatians 3:16 (seed of Abraham)
- - 1 Timothy 2:5 (one mediator)



- - Acts 20:26-28 (whole counsel of God)
- - Luke 15:10 (joy over one sinner)
- - Matthew 5 (blessed are the persecuted)

Stories:

- - The healing of the man lame from birth at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, a man who had been crippled for 40 years and was well-known to the community
- - The man asked for alms but received legs instead, demonstrating the power of faith in Jesus' name
- - The contrast between Pentecost (3,000 saved) and this event (5,000 men saved), showing different divine appointments with similar gospel patterns
- - Peter and John's continued observance of Jewish prayer times at the temple, showing continuity with their heritage while embracing the gospel
- - The personal testimony that approximately 70% of the church congregation came from Catholic backgrounds, demonstrating God's ability to draw people from religious traditionalism to genuine faith





## Scripture

### **Explicitly Referenced Scriptures**

1. Acts 3:1-26 - Main text of the sermon
2. Acts 2:1-13 - Day of Pentecost and divine appointment
3. Acts 4:22 - Age of the lame man (40 years old)
4. 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 - Spiritual gifts
5. 1 Corinthians 14 - Doing all things decently and in order (alluded to)
6. John 16 - The Holy Spirit convicting of sin, righteousness, and judgment
7. Matthew 13:18-23 - Parable of the Sower/Soils
8. Luke 23:34 - "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do"
9. Deuteronomy 18:15-19 - Prophet like Moses
10. Galatians 3:16 - Seed of Abraham referring to Christ
11. Acts 20:26-28 - Paul's farewell to Ephesian elders
12. 1 Timothy 2:5 - One mediator between God and man
13. Matthew 5 - Blessed are you when persecuted (Sermon on the Mount)
14. Luke 15:10 - Joy in heaven over one sinner who repents
15. John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world..." (quoted)
16. Acts 4:3-4 - Arrest of Peter and John; 5,000 saved

### **Alluded to or Thematically Referenced**

17. Genesis through Malachi - The whole counsel of God (Old Testament)
18. Isaiah - Prophecies of Christ's suffering (mentioned but not cited)
19. Psalms (David) - Prophecies of Christ's suffering (mentioned but not cited)
20. John 10:17-18 - Jesus laying down His life and taking it up again (alluded to)
21. Acts 2:14-41 - Peter's first gospel presentation
22. Acts 4:1-3 - Opposition from religious leaders

### **Supporting Verses for Main Themes**

## **Divine Appointments**

- Romans 8:28 - God works all things together for good
- Ephesians 2:10 - Created for good works prepared beforehand



## Conviction of Sin

- Romans 3:23 - All have sinned
- Romans 3:10 - None is righteous

## Spiritual Gifts

- Romans 12:6-8 - Different gifts according to grace
- 1 Peter 4:10-11 - Stewards of God's grace

## Repentance and Salvation

- Acts 2:38 - Repent and be baptized
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 - New creation in Christ
- John 3:3-7 - Born again

## Opposition to the Gospel

- 2 Timothy 3:12 - All who desire to live godly will suffer persecution
- John 15:18-20 - The world hated Jesus first





## Quotes

God is always working both sides. If it's a divine appointment, God is always working both sides. There's no need to force it, but be ready for it.

You cannot judge the success of a gospel message by how many people respond to it. You can only judge the success of a gospel message by whether you have been faithful to say all the Holy Spirit gives you to say, how the Holy Spirit gives you to say it.

The humility of the Holy Spirit coupled with the passion of the Holy Spirit is what we see in Peter's example. The Holy Spirit will never point to any man but always to Jesus.

There is only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. Any man that tries to stand between you and your access to God is out of line and is actually performing what the enemy would have him do.

People must know what they are being saved from in order to be saved. The conviction of sin is a necessary ingredient in the presentation of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He asked for alms and he got legs instead. Jesus is alive, and the fact this man stands before you healed by faith in the truth that Jesus is the Christ is the proof of that fact.

Repent and be born again. Repent of your unbelief in who Jesus Christ was, to repent of your unbelief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, God the Son.

When you've done these five things, prepare for all hell to break loose. It was religious traditionalism that put Christ to death, and when the true gospel appears again, they will attempt to do so again.





## Discussion Questions

How does recognizing that God works both sides of a divine appointment change the way you approach sharing the gospel with others?

Peter immediately deflected praise for the healing miracle away from himself and toward Jesus. In what areas of your life do you struggle to give God credit rather than accepting praise for yourself?

The sermon emphasizes that you cannot judge the success of a gospel message by how many people respond to it. How does this truth free you from fear or discouragement in evangelism?

According to the parable of the soils in Matthew 13, only one in four hearers were fully prepared to receive the gospel. How does this reality affect your expectations and faithfulness in sharing your faith?

Peter accused his audience of killing Jesus, yet also told them they did it in ignorance and could be forgiven. How can we balance speaking hard truths with offering hope and compassion when sharing the gospel?

The sermon states that religious traditionalism often opposes the simple gospel because it makes human mediation unnecessary. What religious traditions or practices might you be tempted to rely on instead of your direct relationship with Jesus?

The crippled man asked for alms but received legs instead. When have you asked God for something small only to receive something far greater than you imagined?

Peter was prepared for opposition and even arrest after preaching the gospel. What fears or potential consequences hold you back from being bold in sharing your faith, and how can you overcome them?

The sermon emphasizes that conviction of sin is a necessary ingredient in gospel presentation. Why is it important for people to understand what they are being saved from, not just what they are being saved to?

Five thousand people believed after witnessing the healing and hearing Peter's message. How does seeing God work through miracles or changed lives prepare people to hear and receive the gospel?



## Small Group Guide: The Pattern of Gospel Presentation

### **Based on Acts 3:1-26**

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#### **Opening Prayer (5 minutes)**

*Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand how to effectively share the gospel and recognize divine appointments in daily life.*

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#### **Ice Breaker (10 minutes)**

*Question: Have you ever had an unexpected conversation that seemed "divinely appointed"? What made it feel that way?*

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#### **Key Takeaways from the Sermon**

##### **The Five-Step Pattern for Gospel Presentation:**

- 1. Divine Appointment - The Holy Spirit orchestrates opportunities**
- 2. Conviction of Sin - People must understand what they're being saved from**
- 3. Comfort of Forgiveness - The possibility of sins being forgiven**
- 4. The Remedy - Repent and be born again**
- 5. Biblical Exposition - Grounding the message in Scripture**

**Important Reminder:** "God is always working both sides" of a divine appointment.

#### **Discussion Questions**

##### **Understanding Divine Appointments (15 minutes)**

- 1. Acts 3:1-10 - Compare the divine appointment in Acts 2 (Pentecost) with Acts 3 (the lame beggar). What differences do you notice? What does this teach us about how God works?**



- 2. The pastor emphasized that divine appointments are "organic, not formulaic." Why is this distinction important when sharing our faith?*
- 3. Personal Reflection: When was the last time you sensed the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak to someone? Did you act on it? What happened?*

### ***The Role of Spiritual Gifts (10 minutes)***

- 4. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 - Peter operated in multiple spiritual gifts (word of knowledge, faith, healing). Which spiritual gift(s) do you believe the Holy Spirit has given you? How might these be used in sharing the gospel?*
- 5. How does recognizing that "every born-again believer is provided with at least one gift of the Spirit" change your confidence in ministry opportunities?*

### ***Conviction and Comfort (15 minutes)***

- 6. Acts 3:13-15 - Peter was very direct: "Jesus, whom you killed, healed this man." Yet in verse 17 he says, "I know that you did it in ignorance." How do we balance conviction of sin with compassion when sharing the gospel?*
- 7. The pastor mentioned that Peter could have delivered this message either passionately (almost angrily) or tenderly (pleading). Why does it matter that we're sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading in our tone and approach?*
- 8. The Parable of the Soils (Matthew 13:18-23) - Jesus taught that only one in four soils was truly ready. How does this reality affect how we measure "success" in evangelism?*

### ***Practical Application (15 minutes)***

- 9. The pastor stated: "You can only judge the success of a gospel message by whether you have been faithful to say all the Holy Spirit gives you to say." How does this free us from the pressure of results?*
- 10. Acts 3:19 - "Repent and be converted (born again)" is the remedy. Why is it crucial that people understand what they're repenting of? How can we help make this clear?*



**11. The sermon mentioned that 70% of the church has a Catholic background and came to saving faith despite hearing "offensive" truth. How should this reality shape our courage in speaking truth to friends from religious backgrounds?**

### **Expecting Opposition (10 minutes)**

**12. Acts 4:1-4 - Peter and John were arrested, yet 5,000 people believed. What does this teach us about the relationship between opposition and fruitfulness?**

**13. The pastor said, "Prepare for all hell to break loose" after faithfully sharing the gospel. Have you experienced pushback after sharing your faith? How did you respond?**

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## **Practical Application This Week**

### **Individual Commitments:**

**Choose one or two to focus on this week:**

- 1. Prayer Focus: Ask God daily to give you eyes to see divine appointments and courage to act on them.**
- 2. Study Assignment: Pick one person in your life who needs to hear the gospel. Study what Scripture says about their specific objections or background (Jewish, Catholic, atheist, etc.).**
- 3. Practice Sharing: Write out your testimony using the five-step pattern. Practice sharing it with someone in the group.**
- 4. Spiritual Gifts: Take time to identify and pray about which spiritual gifts God has given you for ministry (review 1 Corinthians 12:7-11).**
- 5. Memorize Scripture: Learn one key verse for sharing the gospel (suggested: John 3:16, Acts 3:19, or 1 Timothy 2:5).**
- 6. Step Out: This week, be intentionally available. When you sense the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak to someone, act on it—even if it feels uncomfortable.**



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## **Group Accountability**

*Share with one person in the group:*

- *One specific person you're praying will come to Christ*
- *One fear or obstacle that holds you back from sharing the gospel*
- *One commitment from the list above that you'll focus on this week*

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## **Key Quotes to Remember**

- *"God is always working both sides" of a divine appointment.*
- *"You cannot judge the success of a gospel message by how many people respond to it."*
- *"There is only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)*
- *"People must know what they are being saved from in order to be saved."*
- *"The relevancy of any pastor is established by their faithfulness to teach the whole counsel of the word of God."*

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## **Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**

*Pray specifically for:*

- *Boldness to recognize and act on divine appointments*
- *The people group members mentioned who need Christ*
- *Protection from discouragement when the gospel is rejected*
- *Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading in tone, timing, and words*
- *Joy in being faithful, regardless of visible results*

## **Before Next Week**

*Read ahead: Acts 4:5-31 (Peter and John before the Sanhedrin)*

*Reflection question to consider: How did Peter and John respond to threats and opposition? What can we learn from their example?*



## Daily Devotional

# 5-Day Devotional: Divine Appointments and Gospel Living

## Day 1: Recognizing Divine Appointments

**Reading:** Acts 3:1-10

**Devotional:**

Peter and John encountered a man crippled for 40 years at the temple gate. This was no coincidence—it was a divine appointment orchestrated by the Holy Spirit. God is constantly working both sides of every encounter, preparing hearts to receive and believers to give. The question is: are we available and attentive? Divine appointments rarely arrive with fanfare. They come disguised as interruptions, unexpected conversations, or moments when someone crosses our path. Peter didn't have silver or gold, but he had something infinitely more valuable—the power of Jesus' name. Today, ask God to open your eyes to the divine appointments He's arranging in your life. You may not have what people ask for, but you have what they truly need.

## Day 2: The Conviction and Comfort of Truth

**Reading:** Acts 3:11-16

**Devotional:**

Peter's message began with a jarring truth: "You killed the Prince of Life." Yet this conviction wasn't meant to condemn but to awaken. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin not to shame us but to show us our need for a Savior. Notice Peter's balance—he spoke truth boldly while acknowledging they acted in ignorance. This is the pattern of gospel presentation: conviction followed by the possibility of forgiveness. The same Jesus they rejected now offers healing and restoration. When sharing your faith, don't shy away from naming sin, but always point toward the remedy. The healed man standing before them was living proof that Jesus specializes in restoring what seems permanently broken. Your testimony of transformation carries the same power today.

## Day 3: Repentance—The Turning Point

**Reading:** Acts 3:17-21

**Devotional:**

"Repent and be converted" isn't just religious language—it's an invitation to begin again. The Greek word "epistrepho" means to turn around completely, to be born again. Repentance isn't merely feeling sorry; it's changing direction from unbelief to faith, from self-sufficiency to Christ-dependence. Peter offered these people who participated in Jesus' crucifixion the opportunity for complete forgiveness and spiritual refreshing.



This reveals God's extravagant grace. No sin is too great, no past too dark, no guilt too heavy for the blood of Christ to cover. But repentance requires knowing what you're repenting of. Take time today to honestly examine your heart. What areas of unbelief remain? Where are you trusting in your own goodness rather than Christ's righteousness? True repentance leads to transformation.

## **Day 4: The Biblical Foundation of Faith**

**Reading:** Acts 3:22-26; Deuteronomy 18:15-19

### **Devotional:**

Peter didn't invent his message—he rooted it deeply in Scripture. From Moses to Samuel, the prophets foretold Christ's coming, suffering, and resurrection. This biblical foundation matters because faith built on experience alone is unstable, but faith anchored in God's unchanging Word withstands every storm. Your personal testimony is powerful, but it gains authority when connected to the eternal truth of Scripture. The religious leaders of Peter's day rejected Jesus partly because they overlooked what their own Scriptures clearly taught. Are you studying God's Word for yourself? Can you explain the biblical basis for your faith? A personal relationship with Jesus isn't anti-intellectual—it's grounded in the revelation God has provided. Invest time in knowing Scripture so you can share the reason for your hope with clarity and confidence.

## **Day 5: Expecting Opposition, Rejoicing in Opportunity**

**Reading:** Acts 4:1-4; Matthew 5:10-12

### **Devotional:**

Peter and John were arrested for preaching the gospel, yet 5,000 people believed. Opposition and fruitfulness often arrive together. Religious traditionalism, self-righteousness, and human systems of salvation will always resist the simple truth that salvation comes through faith in Christ alone. When you faithfully present the gospel, expect resistance—but also expect God to work. The religious leaders could imprison the messengers, but they couldn't stop the message. Your faithfulness isn't measured by how people respond but by whether you say what the Holy Spirit gives you to say. Some will reject it; others will receive it gladly. Remember, there's rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents. Let that eternal perspective fuel your courage. The same Holy Spirit who empowered Peter will put words in your mouth and divine appointments in your path.

### **Closing Reflection:**

This week, commit to being available for the divine appointments God arranges. Study His Word to know the biblical foundation of your faith. Speak truth with both conviction and compassion. And when opposition comes, rejoice that you've been counted worthy to share in the mission that matters most—proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.