

Moving with Power

Acts 3:1-16

vs. 42, They devoted themselves to prayer.

vs. 1, Peter and John are headed to the temple for a time of prayer.

vs. 2-3, Nothing out of the ordinary.

Conditioned to not expect dignity.

vs. 4, Peter and John looked straight at him. Look at us.

Human dignity - not based on status or quality of decision making. Simple straight forward image bearing.

Question: Have you spent time reflecting on how you treat others? Have you reflected on your list of qualifiers?

2:45, They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need.

Money -> necessary but unimportant

Peter and John's needs were being met because of the family of God.

Something of far greater meaning was impacting their lives.

"Workin' like a dog all day ain't workin' for me
I wish I had a rich uncle that'd kick the bucket
And I was sittin' on a pile like Warren Buffett
I know everybody says money can't buy happiness
But it could buy me a boat" ~ Chris Janson (Buy me a Boat)

vs. 6, Peter, "I don't have money, but what I do have is so much better."

Question: What is your relationship with money, possessions, and resources? Are you using God's gifts in the stream of kingdom values?

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!

- 1) Deep human contact (eye to eye). Deep work of God (supernatural healing)..
- 2) In the name of Jesus (he is the authority). Jesus is king.

At the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (**Philippians 2:10-11**)

The name of Jesus has power. The message is on the move.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Up until this point all of the activity has been in Jerusalem.

Subtle detail: God's power is not being displayed in the Temple.

Something significant is happening.

Where is the majority of life giving activity being found?

The institution has become stale (rotten).

The Temple had become a place of worldly power and resistance to the purposes of God.

Question: What parts of your life are starting to stink (becoming rotten)? Is it institutional, relational, cultural, social? What areas do you need to invite the Holy Spirit in to bring renewal? Are you experiencing the type of life described in Acts 2:42-47?

The gospel of Luke began and ended in the Temple.

Luke 1:9 (Zechariah) it happened that he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense.

Luke 24:53 And they were continually in the temple praising God.

The good news of Jesus is reaching outside to anyone and everyone who needs it.

vs. 12, Inside the Temple. Fellow Israelites, why are you amazed at this?
How did you do that?

It wasn't us. It was Jesus!

vs. 13, The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
Peter speaks with a certain level of formality.

He wants Israel to make the connection.

Exodus 3:6 Then he continued, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Luke 20:37 Moses even indicated in the passage about the burning bush that the dead are raised, where he calls the Lord **the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob**.

Jesus is the fulfillment of these promises.

When we look at Jesus it is the same power, presence, majesty that Moses experienced at the burning bush.

Jesus is accomplishing the work and promises of God in real time.

vs. 13 continues, has glorified his servant Jesus,
Jesus is God's servant and he is innocent.

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will give him the many as a portion, and he will receive the mighty as spoil, because he willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet he bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels.

vs. 14, Holy and Righteous One
Think of freedom (Moses).
Think of God's servant.

Jesus is completely God centered. He is steadfast love. He is justice.

vs. 15, the source of life (prince, ruler)

Jesus is the giver of life.

He is equal to the Creator.

Jesus is actively engaged in accomplishing the will of God.

He has conquered death, decay, and corruption.

New Life continues...

How?

By **faith!** (**vs. 16**)

The name of Jesus causes growth, wholeness, renewal (cleansing), and pours out power (morally, spiritually, and personally).

Believing in Jesus is the way to wholeness!

Question: How are you tangibly experiencing the power of Jesus? What steps do you need to take...by faith?