

## Time to Get Up

(Acts 3:1-26)

### Introduction

1. Accelerate: Jesus accelerates us by the power of the Holy Spirit to a transformative, relational, missional life in Christ.
2. 3 types of people & different ways they could sleep through life. Which one are you?
  - a. Jesus is calling us to get up, & to trust Him to empower us to do so.
3. Background
  - a. [Acts 2:1-41] Jesus fills His followers with the promised Spirit, & they miraculously speak in unlearned, foreign languages about Jesus, fulfilling Scriptures, leading 3000 people to believe & follow Jesus.
  - b. [Acts 2:42-47] They focus on what's important to grow as a family in Christ: practices, attitude & impact.

### Jesus meets the needs of the crippled [Acts 3:1-8]

1. [1-3] A crippled view of life
  - a. [1] Peter & John are on their way to worship & pray at the Temple (cf. Acts 2:46), around 3 PM.
  - b. [2] A man crippled since birth is dropped off at a temple gate to beg.
    - i. People were sometimes stricken for their sin or their parents' sin (cf. 2 Chr 26:16-23; Num 20:5), but not every suffering was because of sin (cf. John 9:2-3).
    - ii. Social stigma: People wrongly assumed that all suffering/handicaps were a curse from God.
  - c. [3] The man sees Peter & John, & asks for spare change.
    - i. In our brokenness or hard circumstances, we tend to settle for limited solutions/options.
2. [4-6] Jesus meets real (not just perceived) needs.
  - a. [4] Peter & John focus intently on the beggar (instead of ignoring him), & demand his full attention
    - i. That's the compassion of Christ at work in/through them to treat him with value & dignity.
  - b. [5] He fixes his attention on them, expecting some kind of monetary help.
  - c. [6] Through Peter, Jesus addresses what the man needs, not what he wants.
    - i. Often, what we want is not what we really need.
    - ii. The man doesn't need a few bucks; he needs a miraculous change in his life physically to point him to real life in Christ spiritually.
  - d. Jesus wants to give you more than a "quick fix"; He wants to meet your real need.
3. [6-7] Jesus requires us to trust Him, demonstrated through action.
  - a. [6b] "In the name of Jesus": Trusting in His authority & power as Lord, God, Savior, King.
    - i. "Get up and walk": An external response expressing an internal trust.
  - b. [7a] Peter reaches out & raises him: Requires for the man to simply hold on.
  - c. [7b] The result: Immediate healing, showing the work of God in the man's heart & legs.
  - d. When God heals our brokenness & meets our needs, there's always an element of faith put into action.
    - i. He will prompt with directions/instruction that requires trust in Him through obedience.
4. [8-10] Respond to Jesus' work with praise
  - a. [8] Miraculous/complete healing that leads him to walk, jump & praise God with joy.
  - b. [9-10] The crowds are amazed as witnesses of his healing, walking & praise.
  - c. The healed man is not shy about it; he shows & tells everyone about what Jesus has done.
5. Application: Those with brokenness (physical, emotional, spiritual), it's time to get up.
  - a. Ask Jesus to address your real need (not perceived want).
  - b. Trust Jesus by obeying whatever prompting/wisdom He gives (through His Word, conviction, godly counsel).

- c. Praise God with joy & with others at the results.

### **Jesus turns ignorance into repentance [Acts 3:11-26]**

1. [11-16] An ignorant view of life
  - a. [11] Like the crowd, we can be just observers rather than participants in experiencing God.
  - b. [12] "Men of Israel": Like the crowd, we may know some Bible, attend church, & falsely assume we know God.
    - i. [12b] They do not recognize it as God's work; they attribute it to the apostles.
  - c. [13-15] Crowd's relationship to Jesus: They failed to recognize Him as God/King & killed Him.
  - d. [16] It's by His power/authority/name, and trust in Him, that healed the man.
    - i. [16b] "Faith that is through Jesus": Not generated by our own will; Jesus imparts belief/trust in Him to do miracles.
  - e. Symptom: They do not recognize the work of Jesus, at the cross, or through those who trust in Him.
2. [17-19] Turning from ignorance through repentance
  - a. [17-18] Even though they are ignorant, and God's plan was for Jesus to suffer & die, they are still responsible for His murder because their sin killed Him.
    - i. Sin: Turning away from God because we do not love & trust Him as God.
    - ii. Sin is not just by choice, but by nature (through Adam; cf. Rom 5:12-14).
    - iii. Result: Internal condition of sin & external behavior of sin.
  - b. [19] They are called to "repent & turn from sin."
    - i. Literally, a change of mind (internal condition of sin) & turning back (from external behavior of sin).
    - ii. Repentance: Change of heart, mind & lifestyle.
    - iii. Turning from sin, to God, by faith, through Jesus.
3. [19b-21a] The result of repentance:
  - a. [19b] Forgiveness of all our sins.
  - b. [20a] "Times of refreshing": Experience of Jesus' new life through the filling & work of the Holy Spirit (prophesied with the coming of Messiah; cf. Isa 44:3-4).
  - c. [20b-21] Experience His eternal Kingdom fulfilled, when Jesus returns for His people (cf. Luke 17:20-37).
    - i. [21] "Restoring": When He returns, God's people will experience restoration from brokenness, suffering, death (cf. Rev 21:4).
    - ii. That's why Jesus & His followers didn't heal every perceived need right there. Jesus is not done; He will return and heal every need of all of His people for all eternity.
    - iii. We rejoice with healing, but the big miracle is that sinful people can repent & be forgiven.
4. [22-26] Those with God's Word (Israel) cannot claim ignorance as an excuse.
  - a. [21b-24] All the prophets (Moses, Samuel, all who came after) spoke about the coming Messianic Age.
    - i. [23] Those who reject the promised Prophet (Jesus) were warned, and choose their own destruction.
  - b. [25] The covenant relationship/promise of God (as far back as Abraham) also point to Messiah, when His people will bless all the nations/families of the earth with good news about Him.
  - c. [26] Purpose: God gave them (Israel) all the prophecies/promises of Scriptures to know Jesus was sent to them & raised from the dead, to bless them by turning them from sin.
    - i. We can't repent from sin; we love it too much. But Jesus makes us able; he turns us from sin.
5. Application: Those far from God, it's time to get up.
  - a. How do you fail to recognize Jesus' work (at the cross, in others)?
  - b. Do you really want to repent of sin? Even your favorite, secret, most pleasurable one?
  - c. If you're willing, you can ask Jesus to help you turn from sin today.

### **Conclusion**

1. Jesus empowers followers to become miracle workers.
  - a. As He heals our brokenness, meets our needs, turns us to repentance, He calls us to participate in His work.
    - i. Peter & John perform the same miracle Jesus did, continuing His work (cf. Luke 5:24-25; John 14:12)
    - ii. Jesus accelerates His followers by the power of the Spirit to miraculously meet real needs.
  - b. We're not called to meet every need, but Jesus puts people in our path & prompts us to minister to them.
  - c. Mission of the Church: To see all people healed, helped, transformed by the power of God.
    - i. We believe that the Word/Gospel has power to change lives.
2. Application: Those who follow Jesus, it's time to get up. By faith, pray to be His vessel to miraculously meet needs.