

The Rest of the Story

(Series: Reimagining Church; Message Twelve)

Acts 3:11-4:22

A. Last week we talked about the marks of the early disciples

1. They went to the Temple to Pray! Prayer marked their life
2. Their passion for the lost opened their eyes to see the pain around them
3. They healed a lame beggar. Power marked their life
4. They talked about Jesus. People embraced Jesus. Persuasion marked their life
5. God blessed their faithfulness. God's presence marked their life

B. This morning we'll focus on the message

1. The disciples are willing to risk their lives to share this message
2. God has a heart for lost people; now, God's heart has become their heart

THE PRIMARY QUESTION

A. When people heard what happened to this beggar, they came running

1. Then Peter talks about Jesus. He doesn't mince words (3:13f)
 - a. It is time to change our ways. Time to have God wipe our sins away
 - b. That was John the B's message; it was Jesus' message; its the Gospel message
2. It begins with us. What needs to change in our life?

B. Repentance is not a one-time event; it is a lifelong process

1. We need to be convicted about our sin

"When the Holy Spirit comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment." (John 16:8)

2. We need to be crushed (broken) by our sin
3. We need to confess our sins. This means we agree with God about our sin
4. We need to change from our sin

"Prove by the way that you live that you have really turned from your sins and turned to God" (John the Baptist; Matthew 3:8)

C. This is the reality of the Gospel. There is no Good News without repentance

D. Then comes the question: "By what power or by what name did you do this?"

1. So everything is the same, but everything is entirely different
2. The question remains: Who did this?

THE COMPLETE ANSWER

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (4:12)

A. Jesus, fully God, did this; only Jesus, fully God, can do something like this...

1. Without Jesus' teaching, suffering, death, and resurrection, there is no hope
2. Because of his death and resurrection, that hope can be ours

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realize they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus" (4:13)

"Since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them there was nothing they could say." (4:14)

B. It is incredibly hard to deny the Truth when it is standing in front of you

1. The beggar has already joined the ranks of the fully committed
2. The beggar is already willing to give the life he had just received

THE OTHER QUESTION

A. "What are we going to do with these men?"

B. These are powerful people. They are accustomed to being obeyed

1. But Peter and John are no longer scared; their life is no longer their own

"Peter and John replied, 'Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.'" (4:19)

"For we cannot help speaking about what we have." (4:20)

2. They have been filled with a holy boldness

- a. They can threaten, lock them up, beat them, even put them to death
- b. But there is no force that can stop the irrepressible spread of the Gospel

YOUR ANSWER

A. The powerful leaders let them go; they had little choice; they can't stop it

"All the people were praising God..." (4:21)

"The man was miraculously healed" (4:22)

B. The early church's evangelism strategy is going, growing and blessing

C. That needs to be our strategy as well