

Title: **The Miracle and the Message (Part 2)**
Text: **Acts 3:1-26**
Date: **September 17, 2023**

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Big Idea

Peter uses the miracle of this lame man healed in the name of Jesus as a launchpad to preach the good news of Jesus. The miracle and the message always go together. Jesus can heal the body, but he's coming after the heart and soul!

1. Who Did It

It Wasn't Actually the Apostles

There is always a danger that somewhere along the way, when we experience relative success in ministry or life, the connection between our success and Jesus' grace starts to get a bit fuzzy. We start to think maybe it is my power and piety that is setting me apart here and making things happen. We start to believe the hype that others may be spinning about us. But let's be clear: if good things come to us or through us, it's not because of us—it's because of Jesus and his grace.

It Certainly Wasn't Anyone in the Crowd

"[Y]ou killed the Author of life . . ." (Acts 3:15). When we sin we are not only putting life behind bars, we are letting death out of its cage. We are not only stomping on the chest of Jesus, we are nestling up to the chest of the devil. We are not just cutting ourselves off from the flow of oxygen. We are putting our lips around the tailpipe of a car and sucking in the carbon monoxide. We are letting the lion off his leash with children playing nearby. We are striking a match and tossing it into the parched California landscape. We are putting a gun to our head and pulling the trigger. It's insane. It's suicidal. And it's in all of us.

It Was Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts 3:15-16)

2. How He Did It

Part #1: In Fulfillment of the Scriptures

This is something God has been planning for and promising from the very beginning—a Redeemer, a Savior, one who would come and make all the wrong in this world (and in our hearts!) right.

Part #2: Through His Death and Resurrection

The covenant, the prophets, it all directs us ultimately towards his suffering, death, and subsequent resurrection and glory (Acts 3:13, 18).

3. Why He Did It

When you kick the hornets' nest, what do you expect is going to happen? The hornets are going to hum out in a fury and they're coming for blood. When you poke the bear, what do you think is going to happen? He's not going to come over and give you a hug. He's going to maul you. But what happens when you mock and spit and slap and strike and flog and nail and spear and kill the Lord of the heavens and the earth? He doesn't come back at you with a vengeance, looking to crush you. He comes back to bless you. It's insane. It's borderline suicidal. It's the love of God for us in Jesus!

Layer #1: The Blotting Out of Our Sins (Acts 3:19)

Layer #2: The Refreshing of Our Souls (Acts 3:20)

Layer #3: The Restoring of All Things (Acts 3:21)

4. What We Should Do About It

Step #1: Repentance

The blessing, the blotting out, the times of refreshing, the restoration, it's not automatic for you. It's offered freely, but you have to repent. You have to turn.

Step #2: Faith

You don't just turn from sin, you turn towards Jesus. You don't just let go of your idols, you lay hold of, you cling to, him.



Reflection Questions

- Sin is insane and suicidal in its essence. And yet we still struggle with it. Where are you tempted even now? How can Jesus and your church family help?
- Peter identifies three layers to this blessing that comes to us in Jesus. Which of these layers seems most pertinent and precious to you right now and why?

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Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

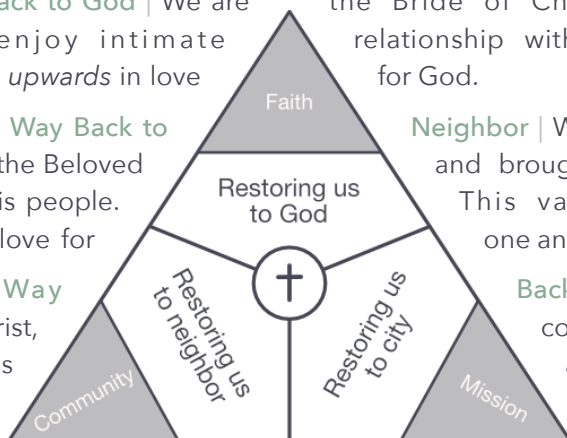
FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the



Back to City | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.

Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

Beautiful Day Service Project - Sign Up ASAP!

We will be volunteering and serving together as a church on Saturday, October 7th, from 1:00 - 5:00pm at Emma Prusch Farm as part of the Bay Area-wide "Beautiful Day" where Christians (churches) from all over the Bay Area will be volunteering and serving together in different ways with different local community organizations to tangibly love our community and city as an expression of the Gospel.

Please scan the QR code below for more info and to find a link to register.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Joey Wang at joey@mercyhillchurch.org.

Mercy Hill Women - Upcoming Bible Study!

Ladies, join us for an in-depth study of seven salvation stories God has woven through the Old Testament that foreshadow the greatest joy of our lives: salvation in Jesus Christ. We'll meet weekly on Tuesdays from October 3rd through November 14th. The first meeting will be at Marcia Bolster's home at 1300 La Terrace Circle, Building 4 in San Jose near Lake Almaden. We'll meet from 7:30 - 9:00pm, with future locations and times to be decided with the group.

Please scan the QR code below for more info and to find a link to register.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Marcia Bolster at mbolster2@yahoo.com.

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