

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“God of the Impossible” – Series

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to (Acts 3:1-26) NLT

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: *“The Miracle is the Message.”*

~ INTRO ~

AS WE DIVE INTO (Acts 3)...

- Let's approach this chapter with the **basic idea**...
 - That God is able to change tragedy into triumph!
 - AND what seems like defeat... into a new beginning!

HE'S ABLE TO BRING A MESSAGE OF HOPE...

- From circumstances of pain & disappointment.
 - His gracious response free's us from the root issues...
 - That have caused us to be stuck.

HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS TODAY:

- Read (Acts 3:1-9) NLT

IDEA #1 – THE MIRACLE:

NOW...

- As we start to understand what's happening in this chapter...
 - Let's make a few observations.

FIRST...

- Remember the scene.
 - The birth of the church just happened a few weeks back...
 - OR maybe even as long as a few months earlier (Acts 2).

SECOND... remember the practices of the day.

- The early Christians were using the structure of Judaism in Jerusalem...
 - For gathering, worshiping, & praying at the Temple – (v.1).

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HISTORICALLY...

- Prayer at the Temple happened three times a day...
 - 9:00am / 12:noon / & 3:00pm.
 - c.p. (Ps. 55:17) NKJV
 - (Dan. 6:10 b) NKJV

WE KNOW...

- That Peter & John were men of:
 - 1) Men of prayer (v.1)
 - 2) Men of faith (vv.6-7)
 - 3) Men of the word (vv.22-24)
 - 4) Men filled with the Spirit (Acts 2:4)

CHEW ON THIS FOR A MOMENT...

- How many people say they want to be used by God...
 - YET... never take any steps of faith...
 - To see what God might do... c.p. (1 Sam. 14:6) NKJV.

TWO TIMES IN THIS CHAPTER...

- Peter stepped out in faith (v.7) NLT & (v.12) NLT

NOW... MAKE THIS PERSONAL!

- How many things are you missing out on...
 - Simply because fear has kept you from stepping out!?!
 - Who needs to take a bold step of faith for victory?
 - Who would like to go to Israel?
 - Who would like to do a mission trip?
 - Who would like to head up some local outreach?
 - Who has a gift you're not sharing with the church?

Who thinks your current trial exempts you from steps of faith AND helping others?

LISTEN... THE SECRET OF GREAT FAITH:

- a) Believing that God is able (passive faith)
- b) Believing that God is willing (active faith) (belief in action) (vv.6-7).

DON'T MISS THE SIMPLE EXAMPLE HERE...

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- Peter & John were just ministering the way they saw Jesus do it.
 - Jesus spoke words of faith to hurting people...
 - AND their lives were changed!

REMEMBER:

- (Luke 5:24-b) NLT – (paralyzed man)
 - “*Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home.!*”
- (Luke 6:10) NLT – (man with a deformed hand)
 - “*Hold out your hand.*”

THESE TWO MEN...

- *Responded to Jesus* AND their lives were changed!
 - They didn’t make *excuses*... they *obeyed*.

LET’S TALK ABOUT HEALINGS:

- a) *Instantly* (Luke 5:24) & (Luke 6:10)
 - i. *Stand up* OR *hold out*.
- b) *Gradually* with a change of location (Mark 8:22-26) NLT
 - i. Led the man out of the village.
 - (Maybe God is directing you out of trouble)
 - ii. Spit in the man’s eye.
 - (God’s response to your situation is not normal)
 - iii. Placed His hands on the man’s eye. (Physical touch is needed)
 - iv. Told him don’t go back. (God’s warning – c.p. John 5:14 NLT)
- c) Sometimes God says His *grace is sufficient* (2 Cor 12:7-9) NLT
 - i. Paul’s constant eye condition keep him humble.
- d) Other times it’s *the furnace of affliction* that frees us (Dan. 3:25) NLT

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- i. The fire burned away the ropes.
- ii. Movement was restored in the furnace of affliction.
- iii. They were unharmed by the flames of trouble.
- iv. Jesus was standing with them – God’s presence was near.

IDEA #2 – THE MESSAGE:

WHO DOES THIS MESSAGE APPLY TO TODAY?

- 1) Those with a **physical malady** like Paul’s (blindness).
 - Please know that God’s sustaining grace is with you!
- 2) Maybe you’re **Fighting a divorce**?
 - Please know that God sees your heart being ripped out...
 - And he’ll give you a preserving grace!
- 3) Maybe you’ve **been victimized**?
 - And now a location change is needed & you’re not to go back.
- 4) Maybe God has an **instant healing** for you today?
 - Well... that’s His miraculous grace in the moment!

LISTEN...

- No matter what your situation is...
 - Please remember it’s all about His grace!

THE HEIGHT OF GOD’S CALL ON YOUR LIFE...

- Is always associated with the depth of testing He walks you thru!

HAVE THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS OF YOUR LIFE...

- Been laced with trouble?
 - Don’t lose heart... because God is working out His plan... in you!
 - God is not ignoring you!

~ IN CLOSING ~

HERE’S THE BIG IDEA...

- Your changed life is the miracle...
 - Thru which God demonstrates His loving power.

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○ **“The Miracle is the Message”**

IN OTHER WORDS... YOUR TESTIMONY...

- Distributes the power of God’s love as a living witness...
 - Of His grace!

YOUR PRESENT PAIN...

- Is God’s opportunity to show Himself strong on your behalf!

(2 Chronicles 16:9) NLT

*“The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth
in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.”*