

Session 4

SEE AND HEAR

Acts 3:11-26

Memory Verse

“Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah.”

– ACTS 3:19-20, CSB




See and Hear


THEOLOGICAL THEME: The first miraculous healing after Pentecost and Jesus’s ascension drew a lot of attention. Peter took advantage of the opportunity to boldly preach the gospel to the gathered crowd.

A fun and popular kids’ game is Simon Says. The leader—“Simon”—calls out commands to the group, and they are to follow any instructions he or she gives that begin with the words “Simon says.” The leader aims to trick the group into doing things that Simon didn’t say or that weren’t ever instructed. One method for tricking people is to perform a different motion than one speaks, such as raising a hand while telling the crowd to touch their noses.

Many people will follow what they see a leader doing even if he or she is saying something different. Children will often emulate what they see parents doing more than they obey the instructions they hear. Seeing and hearing are important and most effective when they work together.

 Have you ever played Simon Says? How easy or difficult is it for you to be deceived in this game?

 Why do you think people sometimes follow what they see more than what they hear?

 When have you experienced the power of seeing and hearing with kids?


Session Summary

Once the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost, the disciples carried on the work of Jesus's ministry. Peter and John encountered a lame man who they healed through the power of the Holy Spirit. This healing drew the crowd's attention, and they gathered to see what happened.

Peter saw the crowd and the opportunity he had to share the truth with them, so he preached a message in the power of the Holy Spirit, calling everyone to repentance and faith in Christ. Peter and John are an example for believers today that God is at work around us and wants to use us for His glory and purpose in all things. Our role is to see what God is doing and take advantage of opportunities to share the truth with the lost world. The gospel message through the power of the Holy Spirit brings real change.

1. Time to Hear (Acts 3:11-16)

Although Peter and John had been part of the man's miraculous healing, they were quick to make sure no one gave them the credit or glory for the healing. The crowd was amazed when they saw the lame man walking and dancing in praise to the Lord. **When God's work is on display, people will be interested in what they see.** Peter questioned why they were amazed since they also had been around when Jesus lived and performed other miracles.

 Why do you think the crowd was so amazed by the healing they saw?

Once Peter had their attention, he took advantage of the opportunity and began to preach the truth to the crowd. It was vital that they heard the gospel message because seeing a miraculous work can cause amazement and interest, but it is not what saves people. Peter began to boldly share about Jesus and made sure to use language that would clearly identify who the man's healer was. He spoke of Jesus as the perfect Savior so all would be certain of whose power was at work.

Peter also called out the people for the part they played in the Jesus's crucifixion. While those listening might not have been directly involved, it was important for them to understand that they had rejected the very One whose power now amazed them.

? Why was it important that the people recognize the role they played in rejecting Jesus? Why must we also recognize this before coming to faith in Jesus?


In his sermon, Peter used the word “you” to personalize the message. Religious tradition in that day was impersonal. The concept of a personal relationship with God was foreign. In personalizing the role they each played in the crucifixion of Jesus, they could move one step closer to accepting the truth of Jesus as the Messiah. It is equally important for people today to recognize and accept the effects of our own sin. Instead of looking to find someone to blame for what we have done wrong, taking ownership and moving toward repentance is the key to a relationship with Jesus.

The authority and power used to heal the lame man had nothing to do with Peter or John and everything to do with Jesus. When God's people do good things in the world or are used as part of God's plan, it is vital that all are done in the name of Jesus and for His glory alone. Though it might require man's effort, courage, or boldness, we should always remember that unless we serve and do good deeds in the name of Jesus, we are missing the true power that changes lives.

? Application: How can our group be intentional about serving and doing good in the name of Jesus? What is our mission project this quarter?


2. Call to Repentance (Acts 3:17-21)

Peter's message continued with a personal connection. He referred to the people as brothers and sisters. Instead of condemning them for their role in the death of Jesus, he connected with them over the fact that all people sin and reject the Lord. He sought to build a bridge with them so that they might be more receptive to what he was saying.

 Why is a personal connection often effective in preaching and teaching?

Peter noted that the people had acted in ignorance and didn't fully understand how they were sinning at the time. They had sinned because they did not fully understand the plan of God. This is a great reminder that God's will never changes—even when people plot evil against Him and His people. He can always carry out His plans.

When we sin—whether willfully or ignorantly—we need to respond as Peter called the crowd to that day by repenting from our sin. The act of repentance can be described as stopping movement toward sin and making a complete turn toward God. This is as much about what we turn toward as what we turn away from. We turn away from our sinful desires and actions as we turn toward our Savior and seek to follow Him.

 What is your experience with repentance? How would you describe repentance to a friend?

As Peter called the people to repent, he also shared with the benefits of repentance. When we truly repent, we are forgiven, and the record of our sin is blotted out or erased. This would have been an unusual concept for the people to grasp. Instead of offering different animals to make restitution for their sins, they could now repent and trust Jesus, and those offenses would be erased or wiped away as if they never happened. These truths were life changing.

Peter also said repentance brings refreshment. This refreshing may be both personal and corporate. When a person trusts Jesus and repents from his or her sin, there will be a refreshing from the Spirit. They will be cleansed and made new. Peter's words also indicated the repentance needed by the Jewish people. If they would repent, they would be refreshed when Jesus returns in glory. It is important for God's people to look forward to and pray for revival, believing God can and will bring seasons of refreshing both personally and corporately.

? Application: What do you need to repent from today so that you can experience refreshment from the Lord?

3. Warning (Acts 3:22-26)

The Jewish people were very familiar with Moses and knew his teachings well. Peter stressed that the prophet Moses spoke about was Jesus the Messiah. There are still those today who struggle to recognize that Jesus is the One they have been waiting for and need so desperately. Think about the people around you who seem to be looking for someone to meet their needs, fill the empty spaces in their lives, be a friend they can count on, or stand as a safe place to rest. Just as the Jews were watching and waiting for the prophet Moses spoke about but missing the fact that it was Jesus, the same is true of people today. Many are looking for help, a Savior, or a friend but missing Jesus.

? Who do you know who seems to be looking for Jesus but missing Him? What can you do to help them? (Prayer? Get coffee with them? Do a project together?)

If the direct benefits of knowing Jesus wasn't enough motivation for the people, Peter also wanted to warn them of what would happen should they continue rejecting Jesus. The indirect benefit of their belief would be avoiding terrible destruction. The prophets prophesied about the destruction and devastation that will happen to those who do not receive Jesus. This was not a new message or warning for the Jewish people. It reinforced all they had been taught as part of their religious upbringing. Think about the things you've been taught over the years if you grew up in the church. How often have you heard some of the same things but never understood or believed them for yourself?

That is similar to this crowd. Peter boldly reminded them at some point they would be out of chances to believe. Today is the time to choose Jesus and repent of your sins.

? What have you put off accepting and believing about Jesus though you may have heard it several times before?

In the covenant God made with Abraham, God promised to bless all the earth through the seed of Abraham. **All the earth is a reminder that we are to take the gospel to every corner of the planet without reservation or distinction between cultures, races, or ethnicities.**

Here are some unreached people groups for whom we can pray:

First quarter this year we are praying for three unreached, predominantly Muslim groups in Kenya: Somalis living in Kenya, the Garre Oromo, and the Majikenda Digo.

Please pray in these ways:


- Pray for the believing minority who suffer great persecution and martyrdom
 - Pray for courage and strength for those who are boldly sharing their faith.
 - Pray for safe fellowship and encouragement for isolated believers.
-


Conclusion


After witnessing a miraculous healing, the people crowded around Peter, John, and the man who had been healed. When Peter saw the crowd, he took advantage of the opportunity to boldly proclaim the truth about Jesus. The people had seen the power of God at work through the Holy Spirit, but they still needed to hear the truth and accept Jesus as their Savior.

In sharing the truth about Jesus, Peter connected some of their former Jewish teaching to what they had just experienced. He was clear that they needed to recognize the role their own sin played in the crucifixion and addressed their rejection of Jesus. Peter called them to repentance so that they would receive all the benefits of accepting Christ.

Peter also addressed the benefit of not being destroyed as the prophets predicted throughout Scripture. Every person who chooses Jesus will be blessed by God, who has promised to pour out His blessings and do good for us. In turning to Jesus, we also turn away from sin. Peter stressed that all the people of the earth would be blessed through Jesus. It is the responsibility of believers to take the gospel message to the ends of the earth.

 What sin have you been hanging onto and need to repent for?

 What opportunities do you need to take advantage of to boldly and relationally share truth about Jesus?

 What will you do differently because of what you have seen and heard about Jesus today?

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).

For information on Missions, visit: brentwood.church/missions



FOR NEXT WEEK

Boldness

Main Passages

- Acts 4:23-31

Session Outline

1. Acknowledge the Lord (Acts 4:23-24)
2. Powerful Prayer (Acts 4:25-28)
3. Request and Results (Acts 4:29-31)

Memorize

“Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah.”

- Acts 3:19-20, CSB