

A LESSON IN PREACHING

Acts 3:11-26

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Not everybody is called to be a "preacher" or a pastor but those who are would be wise to carefully study the preaching and the sermons of the preaching recorded in God's Word, especially in the book of Acts. Peter and John had gone to the temple at the regular hour of prayer and they also went to preach about Jesus. On their way they encountered a crippled beggar and they healed him. Naturally this caused quite an uproar and much interest, therefore giving Peter a great opportunity to preach. There are several things to learn from this sermon by Peter.

I. GET THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE (vv 11-12)

1. The first thing Peter did was to get the people's attention away from the healing to Jesus.
 - Peter pointed out that someone greater than Solomon had healed the crippled man.
 - Everyone was crowded together on Solomon's porch at the temple.
2. There was no reason to be so amazed, even if a lame man had been healed for a few days before this, Jesus had healed a dead man. (John 11:43-45)
 - Jesus had more than once shown power over life and death.
 - Seeing Jesus display His power should surprise no one - it should be expected.
3. All praise, glory, credit, praise or applause was to go to Jesus because preachers are only instruments and it is Jesus who does all the healing.
 - Those who are preachers, instruments of God's work should be loved, honored, respected and highly esteemed but never to be idolized.
 - Preachers should carefully avoid public recognition but instead point to Jesus as the one to be exalted and honored.

II. ONCE THE PEOPLE'S ATTENTION IS GOTTEN, THEN PREACH ABOUT JESUS (vv 13-16)

1. All preachers have the same thing in common with the apostles, they are to preach Jesus.
 - Tell the people who Jesus is. (v13)
 - He is the promised Messiah, the Son of David, the King of Israel.
 - Expose the people's sins, flatly and plainly. (vv13-15)
 - Unless sinners are made to see and confess their sin, they will never trust Jesus and be reconciled to God.
 - Declare what Jesus has done. (v15)
 - He died a horrible death on the cross, and was raised from the dead and confirmed who Jesus said He was and what He said He came to do.
 - Proclaim the power of the risen Jesus Christ. (v16)
 - In the name of Jesus Christ, by His power, and faith in Him miracles of grace happen.

III. GIVE A REASON FOR HOPE (vv17-18)

1. Once a person is made to realize he/she is a sinner, there is hope for Jesus died to save sinners.
 - Jesus died, arose, and ascended to glory to save sinners according to the will of God.

IV. PRESS UPON THOSE WHO ARE HEARING THE WAY TO SALVATION (vv 19-26)

1. Hold before the people the promise of grace, forgiveness, reconciliation with God now and forever and urge them to repent.
2. Show the people the certain destruction of all who refuse to believe in Jesus.
3. Point out the fulfillment of God's blessings in the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. Preachers, pastors, evangelists, any Christian who is publicly speaking about Jesus can use all the help they can get and the best source of help is found in God's Word, studying the lives and styles of those who preached about Jesus as revealed in the Scriptures.
2. Sadly too many preachers of today seldom preach about Jesus, it is usually about "how to do this or how to do that, how to live this way or that way, etc.."
3. People are saved ONLY by the preaching of Jesus Christ.
4. Get the attention of your people! Preach about Jesus! Point out the wonderful hope to be found ONLY in Jesus! Show your people the ONLY way to have eternal life and that is in Jesus Christ ALONE.