

HOW TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

Acts 3:11-26

Introduction: Young, beginning preachers tend to copy, imitate older preachers, even copying their hair style, voice mannerisms, kind/color of suits, and what kind of Bible they use. It is wise to carefully study the preaching and sermons that preachers have recorded for us within the pages of God's Word.

Peter and John had gone to the temple to pray and on the way they met a poor, crippled beggar who was healed upon what Peter said. This caused an uproar among those who knew the beggar, causing Peter to get the opportunity to preach the Gospel to the crowd.

I. FIRST, GET THE ATTENTION OF THE HEARERS FOCUSED ON JESUS CHRIST (vv11-12)

1. Peter's first concern was to get everyone's attention turned away from the man just healed.
 - Not to himself and John, not to the act of healing but to Jesus Christ.
2. Peter then questioned their amazement.
 - Jesus had raised a man from the dead just days earlier.
 - Jesus had repeatedly displayed His power over life and death as God.
 - Nobody should ever be surprised at what Jesus can do.
3. Peter would not allow any credit, honor, praise or applause go to anybody except Jesus.
 - Men/people are instruments in God's hands, loved, respected, yes, but only Jesus Christ is to be exalted and honored.

II. WITH THEIR ATTENTION FOCUSED ON JESUS, PREACH JESUS CHRIST (vv13-16)

1. Tell them who Jesus Christ is.
 - He is the true, living God, the promised Messiah, God in the flesh, the Savior.
2. Expose sin.
 - Until a person sees his/her sin as God sees it, he/she will not turn to Jesus Christ.
3. Declare what Jesus Christ has done.
 - He died on the cross. He was raised from the dead by the power of God, proving that Jesus is who He said He was.
 - That all hope of eternal life is found only in Him.
4. Proclaim the power of the risen Jesus Christ.
 - The crippled man was healed in the name of Jesus Christ. By His power, by the faith which Jesus gave.

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

1. Guilty before God, yes! But still there is hope.
- Jesus Christ died for the guilty sinner.
2. Joseph's brothers remembered their sin and feared, but Joseph forgave them and gave them life. (*Genesis 50:19-20*)

IV. URGE THOSE WHO ARE LISTENING TO REPENT (vv19-26)

1. Urge them to repent, showing God's promise of Grace and forgiveness forever.
2. Urge them to repent, by showing that certain destruction awaits all those who reject Jesus Christ.
3. Urge them to repent by showing that only in Jesus Christ can one ever be blessed as God promised.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every believer is to be a witness whenever God calls.
2. The focus of witnessing is to be upon Jesus Christ only.
3. Jesus Christ is the only hope any of us (sinners) have.
4. Repentance and turning to Jesus Christ is the **ONLY** way to receive God's blessings.