

The Centrality and Power of Jesus Christ

Series: Acts: Worldwide Witness to the Worth of Jesus ChristActs 3:1-26January 5, 2014Patential Patential Patential

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Intro:

-For the last several weeks, we have seen the amazing glories of Christ and it is my prayer that our vision of Christ has been renewed. It is my prayer that our vision of Christ is not small but one of awe and wonder. Just think about who we have seen Christ to be.

-Jesus is God: He is the eternal word of God. He has been from the beginning and He will always be to the end.

-Jesus is the agent of all creation: Not anything was made except through and for Him. He created life and blood so that He could lay His life down and shed His blood in our place and so be the perfect sacrifice needed to reconcile us to God.

-Jesus is the God of life and light: God's Word says that knowing Christ is eternal life. He is the only true source of life and there is no life apart from Him. Our life is hidden in Him because we are united with Him!

-Jesus is sovereign in salvation: Belief in His name and His name alone gives the right for one to become a child of the living God. One is not born again by blood descent, the will of the flesh nor the will of man but the will of God in Christ alone.

-Jesus is the God-man full of grace and truth: He became like us and so He is the God-Man---100% God and 100% man. He stepped out of heaven and took the form of man and became like us except with no sin and beloved, He is as real as it gets. He defines reality. What we have heard of Christ is no fairy tale. God in Christ dwelt among us and we better not neglect such a great salvation.

-**Jesus alone reveals God to us:** He exegetes God to us. He is the radiance of His glory and the exact imprint of His nature.

-And He came first in grace to seek and to save the lost. And when we behold the glory of who Christ is we should respond as John did---we should fall at His feet as though dead. And He will come again as promised. Don't think this as fairy tale either. Jesus will come back again. And He will not come in grace but in power and glory and warring against wickedness with the double edged sword of righteousness. And He will utterly defeat wickedness and take His people to be with Him. There will be no rivals and all will bow and confess that He is Lord.

-And this Jesus, the Christ of the Bible, is to be the foundation of our lives. The Godman is life and He is the head of the church and the source of life of it. He died, shed His blood to purchase the church because He loves it! And He is to be the life of the church and we see that in the early church in Acts.

-In Acts we have seen how Jesus had totally transformed men and women and brought them together as family and He was the center of their lives. They had seen Him ascend to the Father. They received the Holy Spirit in power and why? They received the Spirit so they could be witnesses of Christ to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and even to the end of the earth. That's what the power of the Holy Spirit does---He always points to Christ and not Himself.

-We saw Jesus as the message of Peter's sermon at Pentecost. He was bold and confronted his hearers with the reality of their sin. They had killed and crucified Jesus but God had raised Him up. Amazing truth, this Jesus that you killed is alive because

God has raised Him up. And God has made Him both Lord and Christ and this demands a response. And so Peter calls them to repentance and belief in Christ.

-And God blessed the preaching of His Word and many were saved and the church is born. And they were devoted to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship and the breaking of bread and to prayer. Why? Because awe and wonder came upon them as they saw the glories of Jesus!

-And so we come to our passage today in Chapter 3 of Acts. Peter and John are going to the temple to pray. They are still involved in the Jewish custom of praying at the temple and so they are going to pray. But this day would be different. This day would be amazing---something extraordinary is about to happen. Let's look at it.

1 – The Miracle (1-10)

-"Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him." (Acts 3:1–10, ESV) -You know it's easy for us to read an account like this and read about a man who hasn't been able to walk since birth who by a word from Peter gets up and walks. And we say, oh wow, how cool and keep on going. I want us to stop and think about this today and see the amazing thing that's done in the power of Christ.

-This lame man from birth is carried day after day, by friends or family we don't know, but he is carried and laid at the gate of the temple so he can beg for money from those entering the temple. He probably chose the temple because he would think that those religious enough to go the temple would probably be generous and have compassion for his circumstances of life and throw a few coins his way. And Judaism considered alms giving an act that earned merit. So being compassionate to this mans circumstances of life would be something that could get you some spiritual juice. And think about his circumstances. Think about the monotony of having to beg every day for what is needed to live and survive. Think about having to be totally dependent upon someone else to be able to function and do normal things that we take for granted such as going to the bathroom or eating a meal. And according to Acts 4:22 this has been the reality of his life for over forty years---forty years.

-And so he spots Peter and John going into the temple and he asks them for alms. And I'm pretty sure that Peter and John's response would have given the man much hope. You see, Peter and John directed their gaze at him. Peter and John looked him right in the eyes and not only that, they directed him to look at them. This would have given the man much hope for scoring some alms because this response probably would have been few and far between. Think about it. When people see someone needy or someone begging what is their usual response? Yes, we act as if we don't see them. We go out of our way to avoid them and not have to deal with them. We don't want to make eye contact with them because if we do then we must do something so we can get past the guilt of not doing anything.

-And so he fixes his gaze upon Peter and John expecting to get much from them. His gaze upon them was expectant. But the first words that Peter spoke to him would have crushed all of his expectations and his hope. Peter told him, "I have no silver and gold." What, no silver or gold! Then why did you look at me? Why did you have me look at you as if you were going to help me? Why would you get my hopes up only to dash it upon the rocks? What's wrong with you playing this cruel joke on me? He

didn't understand that what he was about to receive was far better than and more generous than any charitable gift that he had ever received by a passerby. He received the command to walk in the power of the name of Jesus!

-"But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"" (Acts 3:6, ESV)

-Now the man probably still didn't get it you know. Here Peter is telling him to do something that he has never done and doesn't have a context to even contemplate doing this himself. He has only seen other people walk and probably dreamed about what is would be like but Peter is telling him to do something that he doesn't know how to do. Peter is telling him to do something that is not physically possible for him to do. And you know this man wanted to walk!

-But Peter knows the power of Jesus name. Remember what the name of Jesus carries with it. It is the totality of who He is. It is the Jesus as is described and revealed in the Word of God that encompasses all of His power and glory. So Peter grabs the man by his right hand and raised him up.

-And here is where Luke uses words of his profession, doctor, to describe the amazing wonder of this miracle. Luke tells us that immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. And Luke tells us that the man was leaping up and began to walk. His healing and being brought to perfect health was immediate. And leaping up describes the coming suddenly into socket something that was out of place. It was the articulation of the joints. Think about the amazing nature of what just happened here.

-Use Mark's description here.

-This is amazing. And it was to this man also. He didn't think he would ever walk. And when Peter invokes the power of Jesus to heal him, walking is not enough for him. He begins to put one foot in front of the other and walk but he can't stop there. He begins

to leap but he can't stop there. He begins to praise God in his walking and his leaping. He is free of the slavery of lameness and all by the power of Jesus---Praise God!

-And he is not the only one who is amazed and in awe and wonder. Look at the response of the people.

-"And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him." (Acts 3:9–10, ESV)

-The people were filled with wonder (state of astonishment) and amazement (being beside yourself in an intense way) at the healing of this man. There was no question that this was the man who had been at this temple for years begging for money and who had to be carried there by others. There was no mistaking what had happened to him. How could you not be filled with wonder and amazement. We would be right?

-Would we? You see this miracle is a beautiful picture of the gospel. What this congenital disease had done to this man that left him in the awful condition that he was in and made him a slave to the disease with no hope of healing is the same thing that sin has done to us. Sin has corrupted our nature and the core of who we are and we are a slave to it with absolutely no hope in this world and absolutely no way that we can save ourselves. But just as the power of Jesus and faith in Him healed this man of his slavery to his disease and brought him to perfect health, so it is the power of Jesus and His finished work on the cross that delivers us from the slavery of sin and the penalty of death and hell for eternity. By the power of Jesus what we once were we are no more. The old passes away and the new comes just like it did for this man. Are you in wonder and amazement and awe at the miracle of salvation and transformation that you see when you look in the mirror everyday? Or have you lost the wonder of your salvation in Christ. Do you see someone in our midst come to a saving knowledge of Christ and just say ho-hum, I guess he got saved? Does the miraculous grace of God in Christ moving among us make you leap for joy and praise God and give Him the glory? Oh beloved, how it should! Don't lose the wonder and awe of who Jesus is and what He has done! The early church didn't lose that wonder. Christ was their life and

that is evidenced in Peter's sermon that follows. This miracle points to Jesus and His power and His glory. Deeds and the word go together so this miracle serves as a platform for the Word of Christ to be preached boldly and that's exactly what Peter does next.

2 – The Gospel Preached Boldly! (11-16)

"While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all." (Acts 3:11–16, ESV)

-Think about the temptations that Peter and John could have faced here. Think about what we would have to fight if we were in their shoes. It would have been easy to just focus on the miracle itself because it was amazing. He could have emphasized the importance of the miracle by itself and examined the man before everybody but he didn't.

-Peter could have led them into a testimony service and said to the man who was healed---brother, you have now been healed, here's your chance to give a testimony and stand up and tell everybody what Jesus has done for you which could have the possibility of putting the focus on the man himself. But Peter doesn't do this either. -It would have been so easy to be prideful here and take some credit. Not all of the credit but just some of it. The people were utterly astounded at what has happened to this man that they have seen begging for over forty years and according to verse 11 this man is clinging to Peter and John. And this clinging (holding onto or seizing) to the apostles is communicating to the people that they are the source of his restoration. It would have been so easy for them to receive glory for this miracle but they refused to do so because Christ was central in their lives.

-No, Peter refused to do any of these things. **"And when Peter saw it he** addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?" (Acts 3:12, ESV) Instead Peter shows that Christ is the centrality of his life and he gives all of the glory to Jesus. Peter knows that he is just an instrument in the hands of God and that any gifts that might have been given to him by God was only to be used for the glory of God since that was his chief end.

-In giving the glory to Christ, Peter focuses on the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus will be a theme that we will see referenced more in the coming verses. And remember what Pastor Nick told us about the name of Jesus. It encapsulates the totality of who Jesus is. It is the fullness of who Jesus is as He is revealed in the Word of God. And Peter describes Jesus in ways that the Jews could not escape the reality of and teaches them once again that Jesus is the Messiah that they have looked for but have missed.

Just look at the names he uses:

-(6) Jesus of Nazareth----Peter is getting to reality here. Jesus was a real man, a real person. it was not some imaginary or philosophical Jesus that Peter was proclaiming but a real person from Nazareth that they knew. This was the Jesus that had traveled the country preaching and teaching and doing good. But notice that this was also the same Jesus who had died for sin and then had been raised from the dead by the power of God! Peter was preaching a biblical Jesus who was both fully the Son of God and fully man and there was no mistaking it.

-(13) Servant---Notice that Peter did not say that God glorified His Son or a prophet or a king, which he could have done and it been true. But Peter intentionally uses the word servant here. Here Peter uses the word for servant that occurs in the Septuagint (Greek translation of the OT) translation of Isaiah 52:13-53:12 where the coming servant of God is described as the one who would be pierced for our transpressions and crushed for our inquities and by His stripes we may be healed! The concept of the "servant of the Lord" would have been well known by the Jews as a designation of the Messiah. This Jesus who they killed was the Messiah of the Old Testament and the servant of God.

-(14) Holy and Righteous One---Isaiah used the term Holy One of Israel over and over referring to the God of Israel. How appropriate the thought of these words then would be now to the crowd.

-"Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged." (Isaiah 1:4, ESV)

-Peter used it of the Messiah in quoting Psalm 16:10 that he just preached at Pentecost as the Messiah would be known as the Holy One of Israel.

-"For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption." (Psalm 16:10, ESV)

-And so Peter is describing Jesus as the Holy and Righteous One, which is a claim of the deity of Jesus. Jesus is God and He is perfectly righteous and innocent and yet the people desire a murderer instead. Oh how Peter's indictment of them must have stung!

-(15) Author of Life---How ironic this is. This term refers to the originator, pioneer, or beginner of life. Hebrews 2:10 uses it in the phrase "author of salvation."

In Hebrews 12:2 it describes Jesus as the "author" of faith. And here Peter uses it to describe Jesus as the author of life, yet another claim of the deity of Jesus. And how ironic is it that the people killed the author of life? How this should have pierced their hearts.

-These titles speak of the uniqueness of Jesus in His sufferings and glory, His nature and character, His mission, His revelation and His redemption. All of this is bound up in His name and it helps to explain His saving power!

-What Peter is teaching is that Christianity is firmly rooted in the Old Testament because Christ is the center of the Old Testament and the gospel is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ. Christianity finds its end in a person beloved and that person is Jesus Christ who is powerful and full of glory. The Jesus of Christianity is the Jesus of the Bible. What Peter is teaching here is that Jesus is the Messiah promised in the Old Testament Scriptures! This is the source of the saving power that is found in the word of the gospel of Christ. Oh church, how He deserves our praise, our worship and our honor!

-But in Peter's exegesis of who Jesus is Peter shows the contrast of the honor given to Jesus by God and the dishonor given to Jesus by his hearers. God has raised Jesus from the dead and glorified Him. God is pleased with His Son and His perfect sacrifice and will not allow Him to see corruption in the grave but has raised Him in glory. And He has exalted Christ in glory and in power and He sits at the right hand of the Father today in power and glory--the same power that healed this man lame from birth. And this God who honors Jesus is the same God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their fathers. The same God that they claim to know and worship honors Jesus which stands in stark contrast to their dishonor. The people---well, they have delivered Him over and denied Him in the presence of Pilate which is outright rejection of Him as the Messiah. They desired a murderer for themselves instead of Jesus and thus want the condemnation of the innocent and the acquittal of the guilty. And they killed the Author of Life which shows their desire for the giver of life to be deprived of it. And Peter leaves no way of escaping their guilt in these things. Look at how many times Peter makes this personal by using the word you. Read them. Peter puts their sin before them.

-Beloved, Peter is speaking to us this morning. We did this too. We rebelled against Jesus. We were ones that denied Him, rejected Him, hated Him, desired anything besides Him, and our sin killed Him. We were ones screaming crucify Him, crucify Him. It was us beloved. Our sins put Him on that cross and it was our sins that He had to come and die for. Ours personally. And the only way to be healed and saved from that is by faith in His NAME! That's what Peter says in verse 16. **"And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all." (Acts 3:16, ESV)**

-Beloved, the truth of Jesus demands a response. The reality of who He is cannot be ignored without consequences and Peter knows that so he explains the only response that accompanies true faith in Christ. He preaches repentance with no excuses.

3 – No excuses---Repent (17-26)

-""And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."" (Acts 3:17–26, ESV)

-The first thing that we must see and that Peter was preaching here is that there is no room for excuses when it comes to the rejection of Jesus Christ and His gospel. Listen to me---ignorance is not an excuse. Oh how many people are going to try and use this excuse to no avail. "God, if you would have just made yourself known to me, if you would have just shown me a miracle, if you would have just given me sufficient evidence to make a rational judgment, I would have been your most faithful supporter." Evidence, really, more evidence is needed? Scripture says that the heavens are screaming the glory of God. Just listen to Romans 1.

-"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things." (Romans 1:18–23, ESV)

-Do you see this? It's not that people don't know the truth of the existence of God but their unrighteousness suppresses it. What can be known about God is plain because God has shown it to them in what He has made! And you know what? Man is without excuse! Here's the truth---and if you are here today and you doubt the truth of God and His existence or His supremacy then listen to me close. Every human being that walks upon this earth knows with certainty that God exists and that includes you. Your sin is not that you don't know He is real and that He exists but your sin is that you refuse to acknowledge Him even though you do know. You exchange the truth about Him for a lie and that leaves you with no excuses. There is only one hope for you----REPENT!

-And Peter's hearers should have known. Peter tells them that!

-"Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."" (Acts 3:22–26, ESV)

-Peter is giving them a key to understanding their own Scriptures. Moses said that there is going to come a prophet like me and if you reject Him it means destruction for you---Jesus is that prophet. There is to be a coming king like David but who will sit on the throne forever---that king is Jesus! God has made a promise to Abraham that through his offspring all peoples of the earth will be blessed---that offspring is Jesus! This Old Testament theology is a summary of what the story of the Messiah's redemption has been from the beginning---God covenanting to His people salvation through faith in His Son as our sin bearer. Moses and David were pointing to the coming of Jesus as the Savior of sinners. The whole of biblical history, the history of redemption is seen in the Bible from Eden forward to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ! The entire Scriptures given to you are about Jesus Christ and you should have known.

-And God has raised Jesus from the dead and He sent Him to you first! Why? So that you would repent and turn from your wickedness! You should have known---REPENT!

-Peter leaves room only for repentance---look at it.

-"Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago." (Acts 3:19–21, ESV) -Repent and turn back---why would Peter say this to the ones that had killed his Savior? Because Peter was not interested in merely condemning his hearers but he wanted them to repent of their sin and believe in Jesus and know Him the way that he knew Him! Peter had denied the Lord and been forgiven and knew the love of Christ personally and it was real and he wanted the same for these people.

-And repentance is not just sorrow and it's more than just some intellectual decision. No, it's a change of mind or of purpose that results in a change of behavior. Repentance is a recognition of the offense that your sin is to God and turning from it and fleeing to God. And this message of repenting and fleeing to God should have hit home with its hearers. In Israel there were cities set aside as "cities of refuge". If an Israelite accidentally killed someone else he could flee to one of these cities and there be protected from someone seeking revenge for blood and in retaliation. Now these cities were not to protect real murderers with intent but only accidental deaths. Today these cities would be for manslaughter but not first degree murders. The killer could flee to these cities and be protected. He would stay there until the high priest died and then he could go home. What Peter is telling them is even though they killed the Author of Life, Jesus the Son of God, the Messiah, they could repent of their sin and flee to God for refuge and He would bless them. Think about the hope that is found in that. That totally wipes away the excuse or the thought that many people have concerning the graveness of their sin. "I have sinned to greatly for God to forgive me---there is no forgiveness for me." Not according to Peter. There is no greater sin than to kill the Son of God sent to save and there is repentance available for them by the grace of God with blessing.

-Think about those blessings of repentance offered. Peter gives us some---look at them.

-The blessings of repentance:

-**Your Sins are blotted out**---your sins are washed away, wiped away, total forgiveness. God pours His wrath for your sin onto Jesus and then credits Jesus' perfect righteousness to you and remembers your sin no more. And this for the murderers of His own Son!

-Times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord---some commentators interpret this as eschatological blessing but that limits the power of God in salvation. For those of you who are saved and know Christ, think about the spiritual refreshing of your soul right now today as you commune with the Lord. We don't have to wait until the second coming of the Lord to be refreshed in His presence. He is with us and in us and it is amazing! Just look at the refreshing that took place in the man healed in this miracle and we get a picture of what it is like for us who know the Lord in a saving way. The old has passed away and the new has come.

-The Christ appointed for you will be sent to you for restoration---Now we get into an eschatalogical restoration---a universal restoration to perfection. And in this we see the miracle of the man's healing point to the ultimate reality of that when Christ comes to take us home and there will be no more sickness, no more disabilities, no more tears, pain. No, there will be perfection as our bodies are glorified and we spend eternity beholding the glory of our Savior. Let that promise give you hope to endure any situation you might find yourself dealing with in this life. We have died with Christ but we have been raised with Him and when He returns we will see Him as He is and we will be like Him! Praise the Lord for His unfathomable grace!

-So we see that Peter preached the gospel. This is who Jesus is and this truth demands a response. And that response is repentance with no excuses. Place your faith in Christ alone. This is the only response in the centrality of Christ.

-So what do we take away from this passage?

Application:

1 – Christ is to be central in our lives:

-I mean really central. Not just on Sundays and Wednesdays but all of our lives. Central to the point that it's our desire to please Him in all of life. All of our decisions, the way we relate to our family, our wives, the way we parent, the way we work, the way we treat others, what we say and do, our hobbies and on and on. Central so that our thoughts about everything are centered around Christ. Is He central in your life? Is pleasing Him your first and foremost priority because you love Him above all else?

2 – Don't lose the wonder of the miracle of salvation and especially yours.

-Remember who you were

-Remember what you were

-Remember the slavery you were in

-Remember the hopelessness of all that

-Remember what Christ has done for you personally in delivering you and healing you just like he did the lame beggar.

-Think about the miraculous nature of this and be utterly astonished!

3 – Have hope to endure and endure to the end.

-Universal restoration is coming

-Until then---remember that you have the blessings of repentance

-You have been totally forgiven

-You are experiencing times of refreshing in the presence of Christ

-Commune with Him

-Worship Him!

WSBC

The Centrality and Power of Jesus Christ

Acts 3:1-26

Intro:

- **1** The Miracle (**1**-10)
- 2 The Gospel Preached Boldly! (11-16)

Name of Jesus:

-(6) Jesus of Nazareth

-(13) Servant

-(14) Holy and Righteous One

-(15) Author of Life

3 – No Excuses---Repent (17-26)

The Blessings of Repentance:

-Your sins are blotted out

-Times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord

-The Christ appointed for you will be sent to you for restoration

4 – Application

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