**Chapter 3**

### Peter Heals a Crippled Man (3:1-10)

### Peter Explains to the People What It Means (3:11-26)

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| Summary |
| * On their way into the temple to pray, Peter (with John) encounters a man lame from birth, asking for alms. Peter tells him he has no money, and heals him instead. The man enters the temple with them, praising God. The people are amazed.
* In reaction to the people’s response to healing the crippled beggar, Peter tells the Israelites his power comes from Jesus, whom they rejected and killed, “to this we are witnesses”; explains that it is “Jesus’s name and the faith that comes through him” (NIV) that has healed the man.
* Peter explains that the people and their rulers had acted in ignorance (in killing Jesus); fulfills what prophets foretold: the Messiah would suffer.
* Peter calls for repentance, to have sins wiped out, “so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and so that God can send Jesus to you.”
* Peter reminds them that Moses said “God will raise up for you from your own people a prophet like me.”
* Ends with Peter saying: “You are the descendants of the prophets and of the covenant.” God sent the resurrected Jesus first to you, to bless you by turning “each of you from your wicked ways.”
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**Chapter 4**

* **Peter and John Are Arrested and Testify Before the Authorities (4:1-22)**

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| Summary |
| * “The priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees” come to Peter and John while they are speaking to the people around the temple about the healing of the crippled man. The authorities are annoyed b/c P&J are teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is resurrection from of the dead.
* Peter and John are arrested, but 5000 of those who had been listening “believed.”
* Council asks “By what power or by what name did you do this?” Peter responds: “By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised form the dead. He refers to Jesus as the “cornerstone” and says “there is salvation in no one else.”
* Council sees their “**boldness**,” recognizes them as “uneducated and ordinary men” and as companions of Jesus.
* Council orders P&J to leave while they discus. They wonder what to do with P&J, since a “notable sign has been done through them.”
* Council decides to tell P&J not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus; P&J respond “we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.”
* Council again says, basically, “you better!” and releases them, unable to punish them because of the people.
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* **The Believers Pray for Boldness (4:23-31)**

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| Summary |
| * P&J report to their “friends” what the Council said to them.
* Their group proclaims God, who made “heaven and the earth, the sea, and everything in them” and spoke through David about how the Gentiles and rulers of the earth would reject the Messiah. They point out that indeed the Gentiles AND the Jews rejected Jesus.
* The group prays: “And now, Lord, look at their threats, and grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness” (4:29)
* After the prayer, “the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness”
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* **The Believers Share Their Possessions (4:32-38)**

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| Summary |
| * Explains that the believers “were of one heart and soul” and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common”.
* “There was not a needy person among them”—those who owned lands or houses sold them, laid the proceeds “at the apostles’ feet,” and “it was distributed to each as any had need.” (Mentions Barnabas as an example)
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**Chapter 5**

* **Ananias and Sapphira Don’t Share and Die (5:1-11)**

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| Summary |
| * Ananias and Sapphira are a husband and wife who sell a piece of property but keep back some of the proceeds from their community of Jesus followers.
* When confronted by Peter (“You did not lie to us but to God!”), Ananias falls down and dies.
* About 3 hours later, Sapphira arrives, not knowing what had transpired with her husband, and Peter questions her. She too lies and then dies.
* “A great fear seized the whole church” (5:11).
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* **The Apostles Heal Many and Are Persecuted (5:12-42)**

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| Summary |
| * “Many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles.”
* “They [the apostles] were all together in Solomon’s Portico,” “none of the rest dared to join them,” but the people held them in high esteem.
* Great numbers of men and women were “added to the Lord.”
* Believers would carry out the sick into the streets, laying them on cots and mats, so that Peter’s shadow might fall on them; those outside Jerusalem would bring the sick and “those tormented by unclean spirits”.
* “They were all cured.”
* The high priest takes action, with the sect of Sadducees, because of “jealousy.”
* They arrest the apostles and put them in public prison overnight.
* An angel of the Lord opens the prison doors and says to the apostles: “Go, stand in the temple and tell the people the whole message **about this life**.” And so they do.
* When the council calls for the apostles the next day, the guards report the cell doors are still locked but the apostles are gone. Someone announces the apostles are teaching in the temple, so the temple police fetch them, “without violence, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.”
* The high priest reprimands them for teaching when they had been told not to. “We must obey God rather than any human authority,” say Peter and the apostles.
* Apostles review how God “raised up Jesus” and how “you” had killed him but God “exalted him…that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.” “We are witnesses.”
* Council is enraged and want to kill the apostles, but Gamaliel, a Pharisee and respected teacher of the law, warns them to be careful. He gives 2 examples of people “claiming to be somebody” but whose followers eventually scattered. He warns that if this plan “is of human origin” it will fail, but if it is from God, the Council will be fighting God.
* The Council listens, settles for flogging the apostles, and orders them not to speak in the name of Jesus. Which, of course, they continue to do.
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