

Questions for Meaningful Conversations

YOUR LIFE **THE CHURCH**

- Is the world as good as it should be?
- What leads you to think it should be better than it is?
- What is the root cause, or most fundamental problem, with the world?
- Where should we look for a strategy for improvement?

Seeing the Wind

Acts 3:11-26

Chinese: page 1767

Spanish: page 138

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Acts 3-4

- Day 1**
- 3pm: Peter & John go to the Temple to pray
 - Heal lame man: over 40, and had never walked in his life
 - Instantly: walking and leaping and praising God
 - Peter preaches to the crowds
 - Evening: Peter & John are arrested
 - Spend night in jail
- Day 2**
- Next day: trial
 - Peter preaches to the Jewish Council
 - Threatened but not harmed, then released
 - Report to friends
 - Christians pray for boldness

Acts 3:11-26

11: Crowd gathers in utter amazement

12-13a:

13b-15:

16:

17-18:

19-21:

22-25:

26:

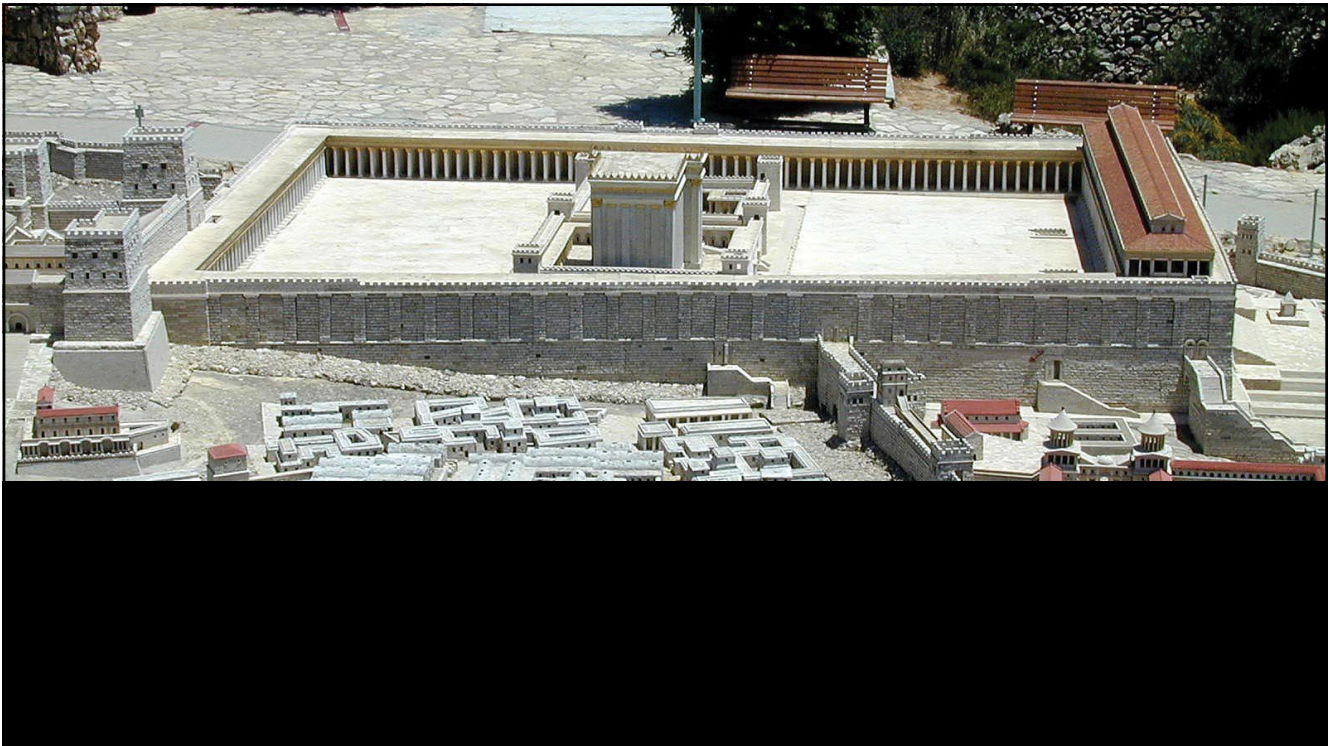
4:1-4:

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Acts 3:11-26

11: Crowd gathers in utter amazement

12-13a: • After a miracle through Paul, the crowds said:

13b-15: “The gods have come down to us in human form!”

16: *Acts 14:8-13*

17-18: • Natural focus: on Peter, John, and the healed man

19-21: • By the crowds

22-25: • By the healed man

26:

4:1-4:

Acts 3:11-26

11: Crowd gathers in utter amazement

12-13a: Focus on Jesus! not Apostles, and not the healed man

13b-15: • The power was Jesus'

16: • The hand was Peter's

17-18: • Look to the power!

19-21:

22-25:

26:

4:1-4:

Acts 3:11-26

11: Crowd gathers in utter amazement

12-13a: Focus on Jesus! not Apostles, and not the healed man

13b-15: → You rejected this Jesus, choosing a murderer instead

16: • **Handed over** to be killed

17-18: • **Disowned** (denied) before Pilate

19-21: • **Disowned** (denied) the Holy and Righteous

22-25: One

26: • **Asked for (wanted)** a murderer instead

4:1-4: • **Killed** the author of life

Acts 3:11-26

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12-13a: Focus on Jesus! not Apostles, and not the healed man

13b-15: → You rejected this Jesus, choosing a murderer instead

16: (Faith in) Jesus is the source of the complete healing

17-18: • Man's faith grew through His encounter with Jesus

19-21:

22-25:

26:

4:1-4:

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16: Faith in Jesus is the source of the complete healing

17-18: Your ignorant rejection of Jesus fit God's plan

19-21:

22-25:

26:

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19-21: **Repent!** → forgiveness, refreshment, restoration

22-25: • Turn away from trusting in other things

26: • Turn to God in Jesus

4:1-4:

Salvation History

- God promised to send His Messiah to be Savior for world
 - Old Testament
- Jesus came (Son of God born as a man)
 - Perfect life, then rejected, suffered, and died
 - Initial glory in His resurrection and ascension
- Holy Spirit came: the Church age
 - Partial experience of God's Kingdom
- Jesus will come again: full experience of God's Kingdom
 - All things restored
 - Fully visible glory for Jesus

**Refreshment with
a measure of trouble**

Complete restoration!

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19-21: Repent! → forgiveness, refreshment, restoration

22-25: OT fulfillment & warnings: Moses, Samuel, Abraham

26: • Listen to and obey the coming Messiah

4:1-4: • Or be cut off from God's blessing and life

• You are God's plan to bring this to the nations!

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22-25: OT fulfillment & warnings: Moses, Samuel, Abraham

26: To Jews first, bringing blessing through repentance

4:1-4: • Then to the Gentiles through the Jews

• You must have Christ to share Christ

• God's blessing is that He turns you to Christ

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22-25: OT fulfillments & warnings: Moses, Samuel, Abraham

26: To Jews first, bringing blessing through repentance

4:1-4: Interrupted by religious authorities (rejecting Jesus)

• Christian community now had 5,000 people
or perhaps men or perhaps households!

The Big Idea

**The only real hope for real good in the world
is in Jesus**

the prophesied, rejected, and reigning Son of God

INSTEAD, WE ARE TEMPTED TO HOPE IN:

- **PEOPLE: PARENTS, SPOUSE, "CHRISTIAN CELEBRITIES", ...**
- **OUR EFFORTS**
- **OUR RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES (FAITH, PRAYER, GOODNESS, ...)**
- **NATURAL THINGS (EDUCATION, SUCCESS, MONEY, SCIENCE, ...)**

**"The wind blows wherever it
pleases. You hear its sound, but you
cannot tell where it comes from or
where it is going. So it is with
everyone born of the Spirit."**

John 3:8

**We are tempted to look at what is
moving, rather than at what is
causing the movement**

**Look to Jesus rather than focusing
on what Jesus moves**



Application

- Turn to Jesus

Questions for Meaningful Conversations

- Is the world as good as it should be?
— No! (But also not as bad as it could be)
- What leads you to think it should be better than it is?
— We are created in God's image, including an expectation for life, love, justice, mercy, and blessing
- What is the root cause, or most fundamental problem?
— Rejection of God and His ways = Sin
 - Whether or not in ignorance
- Where should we look for a strategy for improvement?
— Jesus → nothing else can solve this problem

Application

- Turn to Jesus
 - Repent: turn from ignorance or other things to Jesus
 - Everything and everyone else will disappoint us, get used up, wear out, stop working, start hurting us
 - Today: you are making a powerful choice
 - Either hardening your heart
 - Or seeking Jesus

Application

- Turn to Jesus
- Keep looking to Jesus
 - Turn from other things
 - Self: try harder, blame, justification, ...
 - Others: Christian celebrities, spouse, parents, heroes, ...
 - Things: money, pleasure, success, technology, ...
 - Find strength for today, and amazing hope for tomorrow
 - Periods of relief
 - While waiting with expectation for the blessed day of Jesus' return, with its limitless joy and peace

Application

- Turn to Jesus
- Keep looking to Jesus
- Keep pointing to Jesus
 - Point others to Jesus
 - Good without explanation tends to point away from Jesus
 - “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and **glorify your Father in heaven.**”

Matthew 5:16

Application

- Turn to Jesus
- Keep looking to Jesus
- Keep pointing to Jesus
 - Point others to Jesus
 - Point self to Jesus
 - Zero tolerance for pride, selfish ambition, vainglory
 - Individual and group
 - “For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” *James 3:16*

The Big Idea

**The only real hope for real good in the world
is in Jesus
the prophesied, rejected, and reigning Son of God**

TURN TO JESUS

KEEP LOOKING TO JESUS

KEEP POINTING TO JESUS