

THE BOOK OF

ACTS

THE STORY CONTINUES



The image shows three people standing behind a table laden with fresh ingredients. On the left is a woman with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a red headband and glasses. In the center is a man with glasses wearing a dark blue suit jacket. On the right is a man with a beard wearing a black chef's uniform. The table in front of them is filled with various fresh produce, including breads, tomatoes, carrots, and other vegetables. The background is dark with blue vertical light beams.

CHOPPED

“Lesser Gives Way to Greater”

Acts 3:1-26

Acts 3 is about someone who couldn't do anything to save themselves asking for one thing and receiving another—something beyond their wildest imagination. This individual story serves as a microcosm of history as well as our lives.

We think the answer to the greatest problems at the heart of our lives is that we need more of something, more from ourselves, or more from others. As complex as we are, the simple reality is that we are all broken people who need nothing less than for God to do the unexpected and break into our hearts, our lives, and our world with healing and restoration.

Acts 1:6-8

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



Lesser Gives Way to Greater

- Holy Spirit with Jesus → H.S. with ALL believers

John 14:12

12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

John 16:7

7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

Acts 3:1-10

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 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.



Acts 3:1-10

3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

Lesser Gives Way to Greater

- Holy Spirit with Jesus → H.S. with ALL believers
- Receiving alms giving way to physical healing

Acts 3:1-10

6 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!" 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 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.

Lesser Gives Way to Greater

- Holy Spirit with Jesus → H.S. with ALL believers
 - Receiving alms gives way to physical healing
 - Physical healing gives way to spiritual healing

Acts 3:1-10

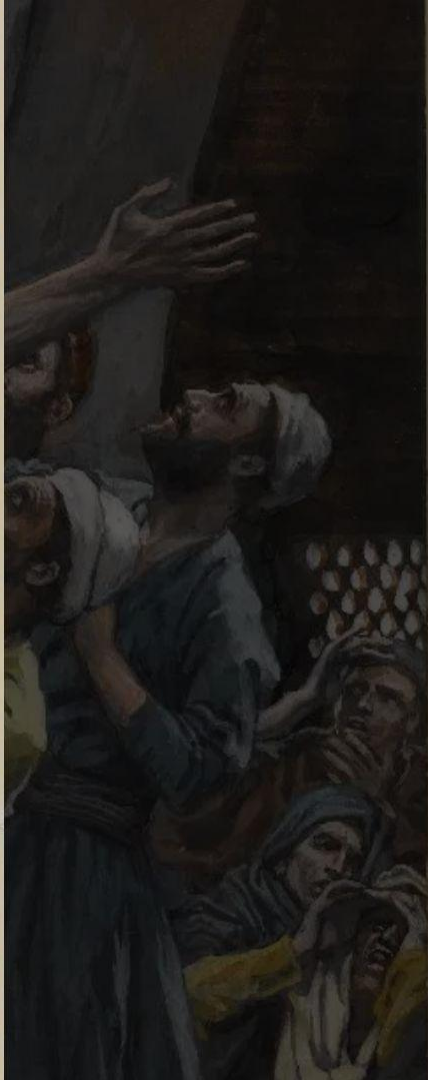
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LUKE
ACTS

They were not seeking self-destruction. They were seeking liberation. And they were trying to undo a form of totalitarianism imposed on their people. The extraordinary thing about their request was that it was so utterly ordinary. They were asking for nothing special, nothing superhuman, nothing radically enhancing of human nature. They were simply asking to live as single human beings, not as soldiers. They should first be allowed to sorrow in all its



Acts: The Story Continues

Luke 5:17-26

- Paralytic carried
 - Jesus
- “Power of the Lord”
 - Healing miracle
 - Awe & Amazement
- Forgiveness > walking
- Religious leaders respond

Acts 3:1-11

- Lame man carried
 - Peter
- “Power of the Holy Spirit”
 - Healing miracle
 - Awe & Amazement
- Restoration to God > Walking
- Religious leaders respond

Lesser Gives Way to Greater

- Holy Spirit with Jesus → H.S. with ALL believers
 - Receiving alms gives way to physical healing
 - Physical healing gives way to spiritual healing
 - Glory seeking (Peter) gives way to glory-giving

Acts 3:11-26

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 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 3:11-26

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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 3:11-26

13 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.

14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 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.

Lesser Gives Way to Greater

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BUT WAIT

THERE'S MORE



MORE Lesser Gives Way to Greater

- Physical/natural miracles give way to spiritual miracles (sins blotted out!!)
- Times of pain *will* give way to times of refreshment
 - Promises give way to fulfillment
 - Ignorance gives way to revelation / clarity

Acts 3:11-26

17 “ And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 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.

Lesser Gives Way to Greater

- Physical/natural miracles give way to spiritual miracles (sins blotted out!!)
- Times of pain *will* give way to times of refreshment
 - Promises give way to fulfillment
 - Ignorance gives way to revelation / clarity
- Prophets giving way to Jesus, the “True Prophet”
 - Wickedness gives way to blessedness

Acts 3:11-26

22 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. 23 And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' 24 And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. 25 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.' 26 God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."



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The Young Person's Delusion: Life Can Be Easier If I Myself Change

“The young person's delusion is how you cope with the hardship of life when you're young and you believe with all your heart that life really is meant to be easy and fulfilling. The fact that you don't experience it that way means, according to the young person's delusion, that something is wrong with you. Your spine is out of alignment (either metaphorically or literally). You have the wrong productivity hacks. You are not hustling hard enough. You are not emotionally present enough. You haven't eaten, prayed, or loved enough. You haven't drawn enough boundaries. You haven't seized the day.

The Young Person's Delusion: Life Can Be Easier If I Myself Change

“In our younger days we respond to life’s pain by trying to fold ourselves into a shape that the pain cannot penetrate. We believe such self-reinvention is possible, not so much because we see it successfully done, but because we believe it must be possible. It’s a coping mechanism.”



~Samuel James, <https://www.digitalliturgies.net/p/why-i-complain>

The Old Person's Delusion: Life Can Be Easier If Other People Would Change

“Self-optimization hasn't worked. Maybe I tried hard, maybe I didn't, but the result is the same: Life is still disappointing. Things fall apart. My control over my life, my health, my prospects, etc., slips away even faster. So, my eyes drop and I start to look around. I see people who disappoint me. I see churches that let me down. I see teachers that didn't go far enough with me. I see parents that should have anticipated their errors. I see books that promised what didn't happen. I see leaders that just don't get it. And I think: “The problem is them.” This, too, is a coping mechanism.”

The Foolish Person's Delusion: Life Can Be Easier God Changes

The problem is not with me but with God. God needs to relax his standards. God needs to understand how important my sin is to me. God's word might say it's wrong but that's because God is so aloof and doesn't understand how dramatically my life would have to change if I gave this up.

Also, God needs to stop holding back from me and give me the things I really want. Shouldn't I be rewarded for all my efforts? Maybe he doesn't even care. I'm not sure I can even believe that God is good unless he budes on this.



The Simple Gospel

1. We have sinned against God and there's nothing we can do to fix it. We all deserve justice.
2. God does the unexpected and sends his Son to live a sinless life and die on the cross in our place.
3. With God's justice satisfied, the righteous one Jesus is raised from the dead in resurrection power.
4. Faith in Jesus Christ is the only way to receive forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal restoration to God.

Jesus: Greater to Lesser

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

“I Need to Change”

And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. (Acts 3:8)

“They Need to Change”

“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!” - Peter (Acts 3:6)

“God Needs to Change”

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, (Acts 3:19-20)

Gospel Response

He must increase but I must decrease

Not power or piety but Jesus

Communion: Four Ways to Respond to God



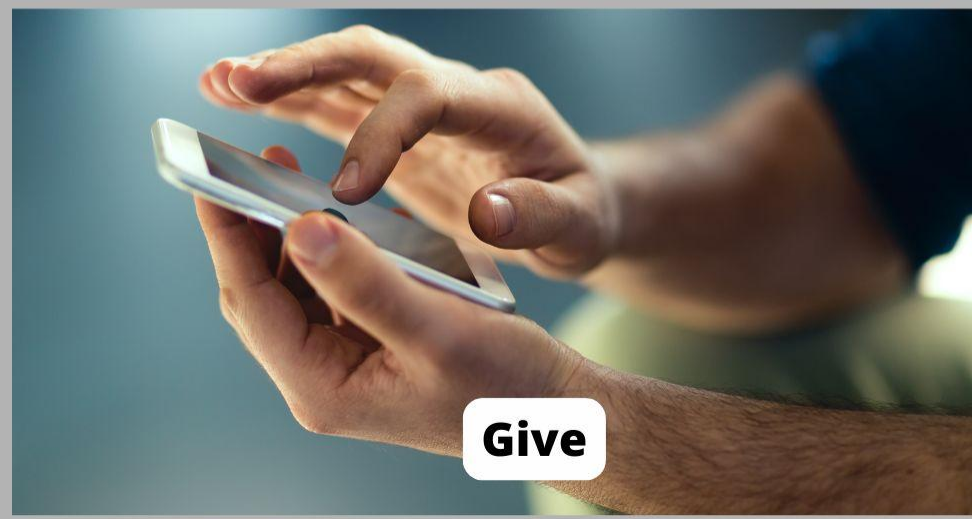
Pray



Remember



Sing



Give