



Handout for week of 4/9/18 Lk. 24: 35-48 & Acts 3:13-15, 17-19;
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Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. 17 Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through

all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

COMMENTARY:

Peter and John, observant Jews, have gone to the Temple at the time of day when sacrifice is offered for prayer. At the gate to the temple courtyard they have seen a man lame from birth, forced to beg in order to survive. Peter has commanded him: "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk" (v. 6). After helping him to his feet, the man has entered the temple precincts with them, "walking and leaping and praising God" (v. 8). "While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them" (v. 11).

Now Peter preaches to the crowd. It is not by their own power or devotion ("piety", v. 12) that the man walks, but rather by God's power, through Christ. Peter speaks as a Jew, to his own people: the titles of God in v. 13 are those by which God identifies himself to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3:6). God has "glorified" (v. 13, exalted, lifted up) Jesus. Glorification stands in contrast to the actions of the unthinking mob, who "handed [him] over and rejected [him]". "Holy and Righteous One" (v. 14) are messianic titles; the "murderer" is Barabbas. Jesus is "the Author of life" (v. 15), the pioneer or founder of a new order, an order open to all. The healing occurred due to faith in God's authority, "his name" (v. 16), through Christ, God's agent. Vv. 17-26 are an appeal to Israel to repent and be converted. The mob and the Jewish authorities, Peter says, "acted in ignorance" (v. 17): this is how part of God's plan was accomplished. "The prophets" (v. 18), as a body – Isaiah in particular – predicted that "his Messiah would suffer" (v. 18). But there is a second chance for Israel: "repent" (v. 19) and be converted, "turn to God" and God will wipe out their sins.