



# ***AFTER EASTER #3:***

**Immediate Blessing – and Immediate Consequences**

***AFTER* EASTER #3: Immediate Blessing  
– and Immediate Consequences**

**1. The ‘Foolishness’ of  
Preaching - God’s #1 Method to  
Communicate the Gospel  
(*Acts 2:14-15, 22-41;*  
*1 Corinthians 1:21-24*)**

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**Acts 2:14** But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.

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**15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.**

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**22 “Men of Israel, hear these words:  
Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested  
to you by God with mighty works  
and wonders and signs that God did  
through him in your midst, as you  
yourselves know—**

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**23 this Jesus, delivered up  
according to the definite plan  
and foreknowledge of God, you  
crucified and killed by the hands  
of lawless men.**

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**24 God raised him up, loosing  
the pangs of death,  
because it was not possible  
for him to be held by it.**

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**25 For David says concerning him,**

**“I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken;**

**26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope.**



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**27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption.**

**28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'**

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**29 “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.**

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**30 Being therefore a prophet,  
and knowing that God had  
sworn with an oath to him  
that he would set one of his  
descendants on his throne,**

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**3<sup>1</sup> he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.**

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**32 This Jesus God raised  
up, and of that we all are  
witnesses.**

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**33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.**

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**<sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,**

**“The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand,**

**<sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies your footstool.””**

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**36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”**



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**37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”**

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**38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

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**39 For the promise is for you  
and for your children and for  
all who are far off,  
everyone whom the Lord our  
God calls to himself.”**

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**<sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”**

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**41 So those who received his  
word were baptized, and  
there were added that day  
about three thousand souls.**

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**– and Immediate Consequences**

**1 Cor. 1:21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.**

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**22 For Jews demand signs and  
Greeks seek wisdom,**

**23 but we preach Christ crucified,  
a stumbling block to Jews and  
folly to Gentiles,**

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**24 but to those who are  
called, both Jews and  
Greeks, Christ the power  
of God and the wisdom of  
God.**



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**2. Great Miracles and Signs  
Performed by God to Provide  
Legitimacy to the Infant Church  
- Not for Man's Glory  
(*Acts 3:1-10; 5:14-16*)**

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**Acts 3:1** Now Peter and John  
were going up to the  
temple at the hour of  
prayer, the ninth hour.

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**<sup>2</sup> 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.**

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**<sup>3</sup> Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.**

**<sup>4</sup> And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.”**

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**5 And he fixed his  
attention on them,  
expecting to receive  
something from them.**

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**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!”**

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**<sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.**

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**<sup>8</sup> And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.**



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**<sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God,**

**<sup>10</sup> 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.**

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**Acts 5:14** **And more than ever  
believers were added to the  
Lord, multitudes of both  
men and women,**

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**15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.**

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**16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.**

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**3. The Christian's Price:**  
**Persecution**

***(Acts 4:1-3, 29;***  
***5:17-19, 40-42)***

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**Acts 4:1 And as they were  
speaking to the people, the  
priests and the captain of the  
temple and the Sadducees  
came upon them,**

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**<sup>2</sup> greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.**

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**3 And they arrested them  
and put them in custody  
until the next day, for it  
was already evening.**



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**29 And now, Lord, look upon  
their threats and grant to  
your servants to continue to  
speak your word with  
all boldness,**

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**Acts 5:17** But the high priest rose up,  
and all who were with him (that is,  
the party of the Sadducees), and  
filled with jealousy  
<sup>18</sup> they arrested the apostles and  
put them in the public prison.

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**19 But during the night an  
angel of the Lord opened the  
prison doors and brought  
them out, and said,**

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**40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.**

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**41 Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.**

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**42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.**

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**4. Result: The Church**  
**Continues to Grow...**

**Big-Time!**

***(Acts 4:4, 32-37, 6:7)***

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**Acts 4:4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.**



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**32 Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common.**

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**33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.**

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**34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold**

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**35 and laid it at the  
apostles' feet, and it was  
distributed to each as any  
had need.**

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**36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus,**

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**37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.**

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**Acts 6:7** **And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.**

For I am not  
ashamed of the  
gospel of  
*Christ*...  
for it is the  
**Power of God**  
unto salvation to  
every one that  
*believeth.*  
Romans 1:16