**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

***Eleven Weeks After “The” Resurrection / 1987 years ago***

***40 Days Resurrection Ministry***

**Heal a Nation ~ Simple Faith ~ Acts 3**

*June 28st,* 2020 A.D. in The Year of Our Lord

Pastor Matthew Diehl

God does not give up on Peter. The resurrected Lord restores Peter (John 21) and includes him in the commissioning. John was a few years younger than Peter and considered to be the youngest Apostle. To have lived to the last decade of the first century, John was most likely a teenager when he met Jesus.

This is the second sermon after Pentecost. Many of the Jews from around the Roman Empire were still in Jerusalem. It is important to note that Peter and John are in the Temple, the headquarters of the Jewish religious leaders. Those leaders, along with their crowd, had called for the crucifixion of Jesus. Peter and John had been empowered by God’s Holy Spirit to go to the Temple. Jesus called the Temple a House of Prayer (Luke 19:46). Like devout Jews, they went to the Temple to pray at the ninth hour.

The Jewish religious leaders had used David’s restriction that a lame and blind Jebusite could not enter the Temple and expanded it to all lame and blind regardless of birth. The Jebusites had taunted David that he could not defeat their lame and blind (2 Samuel 5). Jesus rectified the situation by healing the lame and blind in the Temple.

**Matthew 21:12-14**

12 And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves.

13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER'; but you are making it a ROBBERS' DEN." 14 And the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

**Text of Acts 3**

1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour,

the hour of prayer. [3 P.M.]

2 And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.

3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple,

he began asking to receive alms.

4 But **Peter**, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said,

"Look at us!"

5 And he began to give them his attention,

**expecting to receive something from them.**

6 But **Peter** said,

"I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you:

In the name of Jesus Christ, the Nazarene-- walk!"

7 And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up;

and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

8 With a leap he stood upright and began to walk;

and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

This passage of Scripture is a direct witness to God’s Will in our lives. We may be looking for one thing from God, and then He surpasses our expectations. This healing event was not predicated on money. In fact, the beggar was turned down by Peter regarding money. Peter had a better gift, the gift of healing a defect from the man’s birth. There wasn’t any amount of money in the world that was going to fix the man’s blindness and lameness. Regardless, Peter did not have money. Jesus commissioned Peter, John and the rest of the Disciples with the gift of faith. What was the most valuable asset Peter had? He had faith in Jesus working through him. Peter is the man who had been restored after walking away from Jesus and denied knowing Him. But Jesus restored Him with faith. We see this explained in verse 16. Peter possessed faith in the power of Jesus’ name. Jesus instilled faith in Peter, who, in turn, worked through the blind man, who also demonstrated faith. The blind man did expect to receive something from Peter and John. No doubt, the blind man had sat at the Beautiful gate previously. He had most likely seen Jesus followed by Peter and John. This man had faithful expectations. Thus, he was rewarded. The faith of Peter knowing that Jesus works through him and the faith of the blind man who knew that Peter was going to give him something created a miracle. Faith abounds to work in the affairs of people.

**Where is our faith now?**

In 1 Kings 18, there is an account of the corrupt king Ahab calling 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the Asherah to confront Elijah.

**1 Kings 18:21-22** Elijah came near to all the people and said, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people did not answer him a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, "I alone am left a prophet of the LORD, but Baal's prophets are 450 men.

We obviously have at least two opinions in America. There is the God Biblical-centered opinion and then there is everyone else’s. Right now, we all know that America and the world are hurting on many fronts. In reality, this is par for the course of humanity. We have the pandemic, and we have the political upheaval. I have faith that there are enough Believers praying to impact the situation in America. I believe that there is an unregistered Biblical-poll in America. Many of us remember the Moral Silent Majority that Jerry Falwell called upon in the Reagan revolution in the late 1970’s. I see that many Americans do not want to talk to pollsters and are working in the middle of the day when the pollster calls. There are numerous studies on why polls are wrong. So, we pray for our county, its leaders and the American voter. By praying and telling others that we are praying, we are witnessing God and His desire for America. People will see the difference and are by nature called to make a decision. People will see us walking and praising God.

Cannot we all be Elijah?

**Acts 3 continued**

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God;

10 and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 While he was clinging to Peter and John,

all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement.

[A [colonnade](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonnade), or [cloister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cloister), located on the eastern side of the [Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Temple)'s Outer Court ([Women's Court](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Court_of_the_women)) in [Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem), named after [Solomon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solomon), King of [Israel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Israel_(united_monarchy)).]

12 But when **Peter** saw this, he replied to the people,

"Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us,

as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?

13 "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers,

has glorified His servant Jesus,

the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate,

when he had decided to release Him.

14 "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One

and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

15 but put to death the Prince of life,

the one whom God raised from the dead,

a fact to which we are witnesses.

16 "And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus

which has strengthened this man whom you see and know;

and the faith which comes through Him

has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

**Ignorance**

17 "And now, brethren,

I know that you acted in ignorance,

just as your rulers did also.

**Prophetic Suffering**

18 "But the things which God announced beforehand

by the mouth of all the prophets,

that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

**Repent and Return to the Presence of the Lord**

19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away,

in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Remember that the Jews should have known about the Messiah’s mission as described by the prophets exhibited in the book of Isaiah (Suffering Servant: Isaiah 42:1–4; Isaiah 49:1–8; Isaiah 50:4–7; and Isaiah 52:13–53:12).

20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,

21 whom heaven must receive (Ascension) until the period of restoration of all things (End Times) about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

22 "Moses said,

'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED (Deuteronomy 18:15,18)

to everything He says to you.

23 'And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet

shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'

24 "And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken,

from Samuel and his successors onward, also announced these days.

Samuel anointed Saul as the 1st king of Israel about 1000 years before Jesus.

The Hebrews considered Moses and Samuel in the same thought indicative of

Scripture.

**Old Testament passages listing Samuel with Moses**

1 Samuel 2:18 Now Samuel was ministering before the LORD, as a boy wearing a linen ephod.

1 Samuel 3:1 Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.

1 Samuel 3:20 All Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD.

Psalm 99:6 Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called on His name; They called upon the LORD and He answered them.

Jeremiah 15:1 Then the LORD said to me, "Even though Moses and Samuel were to stand before Me, My heart would not be with this people; send them away from My presence and let them go!

N.T. Hebrews 11:32 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,

Here is a good testimony that God chose the Hebrews through which to witness. Peter is reminding them of their special place in all humanity. God holds a person responsible for what they know. We, too, living in the age in which we live have a great testimony in front of us. We have God’s Word in more languages than previous generations.

According to Ethnologue, there are currently 7,099 living languages in the world. At least one portion of Scripture has been translated for 3,312 of these languages. The New Testament is available in 1,521 languages, with portions in 1,121. The complete Bible has been translated into 670 languages.\*

\*Statistics courtesy of our ministry partner, [Wycliffe Global Alliance](http://www.wycliffe.net/statistics), Oct. 2017.

<https://www.biblica.com/resources/bible-faqs/how-many-different-languages-has-the-bible-been-translated-into/>

We are like the Jews in that God has revealed to us His intended Will for people. He has revealed His plan of redemption and eternal life. Even though about half the world’s languages have a Bible, the languages the Bible is in represents the vast majority of the world’s population.

**Acts 3 Continued**

25 "It is you who are the sons of the prophets

and of the covenant which God made with your fathers,

saying to Abraham,

'AND IN YOUR SEED

ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.'

26 "For you first, God raised up His Servant

and sent Him to bless you

by turning every one of you from your wicked ways."

For decades now, America has been blind and lame. America placed “In God We Trust” on our coins after WW II. No doubt in recognition for being victorious in WWII, defeating the Axis powers of evil. America was founded upon Biblical principles rebelling against an oppressive government of England. There was the evil the Founders rebelled against, and at the same time constructed a government that was one of the best the world has ever seen, but still had flaws. Like David (Psalm 51:5), America was born in iniquity and brought forth into a sinful world. The obvious sin was being involved in the international state sponsored slave trade. America’s founders got a lot of things right, but we are still working on a few things. They were only able to pull partly away from the old-world order.

Today, we live with their great successes and failures. In an effort to compensate their failures, the welfare state was created. Part of the welfare state, is the sin of abortion. The political system that created the welfare state does not want their government plantation to be too big to manage. The welfare state, with the aid of news media, has created a great sin culture. One political fraction of America has created the government plantation in an effort to gain votes in an election. With this system there was an abandonment of the family structure. We all know that mothers were paid to be single. Thus, creating half-families with no live-in father at home. This political fraction abandons biblical fatherly character development in exchange for a vote. This vote getting scheme does not care about personal Biblical development. Thus, creating angry children who in turn land in prison. America has the largest prison population in the world. The real racist are the politicians who structured the intitled welfare state and continue to harvest its votes. The politicians in America who created this system, in the 1960’s, are long gone. The politicians who continue to cultivate and harvest votes from the welfare state government plantation can be seen on the evening news.

But we, like the Hebrews, who struggled with their relationship with God, we too can call upon Him. We turn to Psalm 51.

**Psalm 51**

**1** For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba. Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me.

4 Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

6 Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom.

7 Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which You have broken rejoice.

9 Hide Your face from my sins And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; Then my tongue will joyfully sing of Your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips, That my mouth may declare Your praise.

16 For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

18 By Your favor do good to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

19 Then You will delight in righteous sacrifices, In burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then young bulls will be offered on Your altar.

**AMEN**