

# **Notes for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

## **Acts 3:11-26 Times of refreshing**

### **Remember Peter?**

Peter who, just a few weeks before, had denied even knowing Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75).

Now he's in the temple, the headquarters of the leaders who'd put Jesus to death, and he's taking the opportunity to tell anyone who'll listen about him.

As well as the lame man, Peter is another example of a transformed life.

### **All about Jesus**

Once the disciples had argued amongst themselves about who was the greatest (Mark 9:33-37).

Now Peter and John are quick to divert any attention away from themselves and only to honour Jesus (v12).

Another example of the transformation that had taken place in them.

### **Suited to his audience**

Who was his audience? God fearing Jews coming to worship God at the time of afternoon prayer. So, how does he speak to them? By talking about the promises of God and the coming Messiah – things they would relate to.

It's also very personal and hard hitting! 'You disowned God's servant. You handed him over to be killed. You asked for a murderer to be released instead.' Like in a court of law 'we are witnesses of this' (v15).

But this might not have been as hostile and out of place as it sounds. His audience would know well the history of Israel. The many times the people had rejected God and opposed his messengers. And how God in his faithfulness called them back, perhaps through hard times. That the end goal was always that they would repent and be restored.

The picture he uses is 'times of refreshing' – the pressure builds up as the thunderstorm approaches, and everyone suffers under it. But then the storm breaks, perhaps with violence, and the air cools and people can feel the breeze and be refreshed again. That's what God wants for us by turning back to him.

### **The power of a transformed life**

The miraculous healing certainly got people's attention – but do we have to rely on that to get a hearing?

Even Peter's explanation and argument (apologetics) could only go so far. Not many people are 'argued' into faith. All such discussions do is remove the excuses people hide behind.

What really gets attention is the power of a transformed life. People look at it and see something they want. It makes them want to find out more, to get it for themselves.

## **Connect Group questions**

Readings: Acts 3:11-26

- What is the power of a transformed life to make people receptive to the gospel?
- What about its opposite? How do our failings turn people away?
- What can people see in us that might make them want to find out more about Jesus?