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| ***Title:*** | The Power of the Gospel Gives the Gospel Its Power |
| ***Text:*** | Acts 3 |
| ***Subject:*** | Why should a person put their faith in Jesus? |
| ***Compliment:*** | Because Jesus has the power to change lives and that change can change the way others view Jesus. |
| ***CIT:*** | Peter urged this lame man to put his faith in Jesus because Jesus has the power to change lives and that change can change the way others view Jesus and respond to the gospel. |
| ***Purpose:*** | To help people see the power a changed life has to validate the Gospel they preach. |
| ***Homiletic Idea:*** | The faith that you choose to live by will affect the change Jesus is able to make in you which will affect the way others view Jesus and respond to the Gospel. |
| ***Intro:*** |  |

“The proof of the pudding is in the eating”

*Taken from:* [*http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/proof-of-the-pudding.html*](http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/proof-of-the-pudding.html)

*'The proof of the pudding is in the eating' is a very old proverb. The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations dates it back to the early 14th century, albeit without offering any supporting evidence for that assertion. The phrase is widely attributed to Cervantes in The History of Don Quixote. This appears to be by virtue of an early 18th century translation by Peter Motteux, which has been criticised by later scholars as 'a loose paraphrase' and 'Franco-Cockney'. Crucially the Spanish word for pudding - 'budín', doesn't appear in the original Spanish text. It is doubtful that 'the proof of the pudding' was a figurative phrase that was known to Cervantes.*

*The earliest printed example of the proverb that I can find is in William Camden's Remaines of a Greater Worke Concerning Britaine, 1605:*

*"All the proof of a pudding is in the eating."*

*It is worth remembering that, as the phrase is quite old, the pudding wouldn't have been a sticky toffee pudding from the sweet trolley, but a potentially fatal savory dish. In Camden's listing of proverbs he also includes "If you eat a pudding at home, the dog may have the skin", which suggests that the pudding he had in mind was some form of sausage. THE OED describes the mediaeval pudding as 'the stomach or one of the entrails of a pig, sheep, or other animal, stuffed with a mixture of minced meat, suet, oatmeal, seasoning, etc., and boiled'. Those of you who have ventured north of the border on Burns Night will recognize this as a fair description of a haggis - "the great chieftain o' the pudding-race", as Burns called it in the poem Address to a Haggis, 1786. Mediaeval peasants, faced with a boiled up farmyard massacre, might have thought a taste test to have been a wise choice.*

*The meaning becomes clear when you know that 'proof' here is a verb meaning 'test'. The more common meaning of 'proof' in our day and age is the noun meaning 'the evidence that demonstrates a truth' - as in a mathematical or legal proof. The verb form meaning 'to test' is less often used these days, although it does survive in several commonly used phrases: 'the exception that proves the rule', 'proof-read', 'proving-ground', etc. When bakers 'prove' yeast they are letting it stand in warm water for a time, to determine that it is active. Clearly, the distinction between these two forms of the word was originally quite slight and the proof in a 'showing to be true' sense is merely the successful outcome of a test of whether a proposition is correct or not.*

So the meaning is this, “To fully test something you need to experience it yourself.”

While that may be true, the point that Peter is making here in Acts 3 has more to do with the fact that the effect the pudding has on you will go far in helping another person decide whether the pudding is even worth trying!

Here (CIT Stated) Peter urged this lame man to put his faith in Jesus because Jesus has the power to change lives and that change can change the way others view Jesus and respond to the gospel.

You see, Peter urged the Jews, later, to trust in Jesus because the miraculous change experienced in the life of this lame man served to validate Jesus’ claims with regard to His identity.

“What do you mean?”

Well, because Faith in Jesus, by this man, produced this particular effect in this man, Jesus must be who He said He was and is therefore very worthy of “trying”!

1. ***Faith in Jesus changed the lame man’s life! V1-8***
   1. A man lame from his mother’s womb meets Peter and John.
   2. Peter makes him aware of the power in Jesus to heal him!
      1. The idea here is that there is power in Jesus name.
      2. So Peter is saying stand trusting in that power not in your own.
   3. The man puts his faith in Jesus and as a result he stands!
      1. The fact that the man stood proves he had faith!
      2. The fact that he didn’t fall back over proves that there is something to this Jesus after all!
2. ***This tells us something about faith and about Jesus!***
   1. Faith is trusting in God.
      1. Peter told him to stand in Jesus name.
      2. Faith was demonstrated by obedience to that word from God!
   2. Jesus must be worthy of trusting because obedience to the command in His name worked.

Trans: And so now Peter addresses all of the Jews that gathered in wonder at what had taken place…

1. ***Peter used the difference made in this lame man to affect the way others viewed Jesus! V9-16***
   1. You (Jews) didn’t accept Jesus as your Messiah while he was on the earth.

Trans: Instead you…

* + 1. Delivered Him up and denied Him when Pilate was determined to let him go.
    2. Denied Him and desired a murderer to be granted to you instead.
    3. Killed Him.

Trans: But who you delivered up and denied and killed, God is glorifying through the changed life of this once lame man!

* 1. God glorified Jesus by allowing this man to be made whole through faith in Jesus name!
     1. Glorified – to suppose, to magnify, to extol, or lift up.
     2. This man has been very obviously and undeniably changed!
     3. It was only by Faith in Jesus name that brought that change about! (No other explanation will do)
        1. Peter says there is power in Jesus name to heal you so stand!
        2. The man attempts to stand proving he had faith in Jesus name.
        3. The man succeeds in standing proving there is power in Jesus name!

Trans: Therefore Jesus must be who He said He was because of the power faith in His name has had on this man!

1. ***Peter, therefore, calls the Jews to repentance because of the evidence before them regarding Jesus! V10-26***
   1. You didn’t know (through ignorance ye did it).
   2. But consider even the testimony of your prophets concerning Messiah, all of which Jesus has fulfilled.
   3. Therefore repent…

Trans: What you have witnessed coupled with the testimony of your own prophets makes for a pretty overwhelming case! Therefore repent putting your faith in Jesus!

1. ***And many did. CH4 V4***

Transition to Application:

One lame man decides to fully commit himself in faith to the life changing power of Jesus and 5,000 people get saved! Why? The fact is the miraculous change experienced in the life of this lame man served to validate Jesus’ claims with regard to His identity.

Another way to put it for you and I is this…

Homiletic Idea: The faith that you choose to live by will affect the change Jesus is able to make in you which will affect the way others view Jesus and respond to the Gospel.

* If you are saved this morning, faith in Jesus changed your life.
* But that saving faith isn’t the end of the work Jesus desires to do in you. It is only the beginning.
* Jesus now wants to continue to conform you into His image in your attitudes and actions.
* And while the change that comes with salvation is important, the change He wants to make in you now will affect whether or not others trust in Him as well.
* Therefore it is just as important for us to put our faith in Jesus now as it was at salvation!
* How does that work? What does that look like?
  + When you hear from God, obey!
    - Knowing it is not good enough!
    - You must obey what you hear! (consider Matt. 5 – Beatitudes for example)
  + That is all the lame man did!
  + And 5,000 people got saved!
* We can hear from God in many ways, but the key to know whether or not we are hearing from God is to test it against His Word!
  + Obviously reading His Word and getting to know Him better that way.
  + The Word preached and taught!
  + His Holy Spirit which will never lead us contrary to His Word!
  + Good books written about truth s from His Word!
* And the key to living by faith is, once we hear, obey!

Conclusion:

Jesus still wants to change you, which could result in a change in many others, but you must live by faith! When you hear from God obey!

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| ***Dates and Locations Delivered*** | |  |
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