



The Gathering message notes

re|ACTS - Week 6 - October 21, 2012 / Paul Jenkins

THE BIG IDEA: _____ a name is not the
same as _____ a name.

1. _____ the name reveals _____.

2. _____ the name reveals _____.

The Take-Off

Last week we saw a man healed by Peter and John in an incredible way in the first part of Acts 3.

If the first part of Acts 3 was the what, the the last part of Acts 3 is the how.

Part of understanding how is going to require that we bump up against a phrase that we've all heard numerous times over the course of our lifetimes. In fact, we've probably said it numerous times, and yet many of us have probably never really even thought much about it.

In fact, I would argue that there is no other phrase that is more overused and less understood than the one we're going to read about in Acts 3.

The phrase is "in Jesus' name."

All of us understand the importance of names, because all of us have chuckled at some unfortunate or funny ones.

I remember when I was working as a youth pastor in Columbia and I met the principle of a middle school whose name was Lilly White. Of course, she was the darkest black woman I'd ever met!

You've done it: you heard someone's name and asked the person you were with what that kid's parents were thinking and wondered how that kid either did, or would, survive middle school

We're so taken with bad names that a few years back the New York Times held a "Worst Bad Name contest"

Among the entries were: Charman Toilette, Wrigley Fields, Justin Credible, Michele Lynn (even funnier because her dad was an auto mechanic), Brook Traut and his daughter, Rainbow.

Two of the more famous bad names may be Ima Hogg, who was the daughter of one of the governors of Texas, and Shanda Lear, whose father, Bill Lear, founded the Lear Jet Corporation.

At any rate, names are important and today we want to know what's so important about the name of Jesus.

So, let's jump in and see something we all know and something we all may not.

First, what we know...

1. **Saying a name reveals identity**

This is the no-brainer point, because while you may not have ever heard it said like that, you know it's true because you named your kids

Only Dr. Seuss names people Thing 1 and Thing 2

The rest of us use names to identify people

But there has to be more to it than simply saying the name Jesus, right?

We act as if the trigger mechanism is simply "saying" the name over and over again, or at least very loudly, or at the very least tagging the end of our prayer with it, like some kind of weird Twitter hashtag or something.

We end up asking for whatever we want and then sticking the magic phrase at the end.

"God, we ask that You would bless us and our business and grant us every single thing that we desire - including unparalleled beauty, and just to make sure that you have to, we're going to use the special code You gave us. #inJesusnameAmen."

So names help us identify people, and saying the name of Jesus helped the disciples identify who they were with Phil. 2:9 makes it clear that the name of Jesus is unlike any other name, but why?

It's not just the spelling, or else a lot of Mexican men would be a lot more powerful than they are

There's more to this name thing than just saying it, and that's the something we all many not know...

2. **Conveying a name releases authority**

First, what does "convey" mean, anyway? "To bear from one place to another, to impart or communicate by statement, to transfer or deliver to another, to cause to pass from one person to another."

There's a lot happening in that one word, and that's how the man was healed at the beginning of Acts 3.

It wasn't because they said "Jesus" as much as what saying it conveyed to that man.

There was a transfer that took place, and that man received the power of God found in the person of Jesus

Think of it like this: saying the name unlocks a door and conveying the name pours stuff into that room

So often, we say the name but have nothing to convey, but Peter did! Like we learned last week, he gave what he had, and what he had was the power of God. It transferred from Peter to a lame man, and that man rose up and walked.

Now, if you study the way the name of God is used in the Bible, you'll find some pretty cool stuff:

- it wasn't to be misused (Exodus 20:7)
- it is glorious and awesome and is to be revered (Deut. 28:58)

- it brings God glory in the heavens (Psalm 8:1)
- it provides protection (Proverbs 18:10)
- bearing His name increases our desire for the Bible (Jeremiah 15:16)

But, while all those sound awesome, if we're honest, we don't quite know what to do with that information, and so I want to focus on one tidbit that I found in my study that will hopefully help us walk out of here this morning prepared to be about conveying the name more than just saying the name

To start, we need to turn to Exodus 3, so keep your finger in Acts 3 and turn to the second book of the Bible In verses 15-16 the Lord is identifying Himself with a name, and not just any name, either.

He calls himself by a name that he will be known by forever, from generation to generation

The name is "the Lord, the God of your fathers" and then he names three of them (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob)

Now, flip back to Acts 3

When Peter begins explaining how the man was healed, he said in verse 12 that it wasn't his power, but the power of someone else that he names in verse 13: The God of our fathers, and then he names three of them What's the point? Exodus said that the name by which God would be known in every generation will be "the God of our fathers" which means it's on the present generation to walk with something from God that can be conveyed to the next generation

Forget healing lame beggars for a moment and ask yourself if you have power from God to convey to the generation coming behind you

If you say the name and unlock a situation, are you in a position with Jesus to release His authority by conveying the full power and identity of the person of Jesus?

See, it's so much more than just saying five letters, than identifying Jesus from everyone else. This is about conveying power from one generation to the next, from one person to another.

When we convey the name, we release authority because the power of Jesus is within us ready to be imparted to others.

The Landing

The obvious question, it seems, would be how? How do we get that kind of power in order to give it?

Maybe Acts 3:15 can help us answer that.

Peter had received that power from the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 (you can catch that teaching on the website) but also from KNOWING what he had seen in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

He had confidence in the fact that he was walking every day in the power and authority of the one sent from God, killed by man, and raised by God from the dead.

He remembered the last words Jesus had spoken to him and the rest of the disciples in Matthew 28:18-20: Jesus, who had all power and authority, had sent them out in his name to make disciples and extend the kingdom.

Peter, because he walked daily in that relationship, became a vessel through whom that power could flow to other people.

It was so much more than saying the name of Jesus. Peter had learned to convey the authority behind that name.

So can we.

Let's pray.