Sermon Date: September 1, 2013 Acts 3:1-26 Sign of the Messianic Restoration

"Up to now, in Acts, the whole story has taken place **in Jerusalem, but not in** or around the temple. Now the demonstration of the power of Jesus' name took place not in the temple, but outside of the gate. God is on the move, not confined within the power structure of an institution. Luke's Gospel began and ended in the temple. But now he is telling us that the good news of Jesus is starting to reach outside to anyone and everyone who needs it." (N.T. Wright, Acts for Everyone, p. 24).

- 1. In Acts 3:4, Peter and John "fixed their gaze" on the man who was lame from birth. Doug pointed out that they were looking for God's Spirit to move and they fully expected it.
 - a. What does it look like for you to "fix your gaze" and expect God to move in your life?
 - b. Do you feel as if you would live life differently with this type of perspective?
 - c. Where has this happened in your life before?
- 2. What is the significance of Peter's words "In the name of Jesus"? What does it mean to pray "in the name of Jesus?"

3. In Acts 3:19-20, what are the results of repentance? How have you seen those results in your own life?

4. Considering who Peter's audience was in this moment, why was it important for him to refer to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and the prophets in his speech?

5. What are the titles and names used for Jesus throughout this passage?

6. What did it mean to be "the seed of Abraham" for the Jewish people? What does that mean to the believer today? See Galatians 3:6-9; 14 and Galatians 3:29.

Final thoughts & comments:

Read Isaiah 61:1-3.

We have the opportunity to intently gaze into the lives of others, to ask God to give us eyes to see their brokenness and heartaches and expect God to move to bring refreshment to the weary soul and healing to the brokenhearted. All we need to do is gaze intently.