

Sunday, September 14, 2025
Sierra Vista Community Church Las Cruces, NM
Acts Sermon Series: Pray Send Go
It is Time to Listen, Acts 3:11-26

Introduction—God has a plan for the end of this earthly time in its current state. There is a shelf-life to all this madness that is going on. He is vying for our attention but in the time that we have, it is very difficult to hear God. A time is coming when people will begin to shut out the voice of God and instead turn to the ways of self-gratification. Our window of listening to God is narrowing. Now is the time to listen.

God is gathering His people for one final push toward the end of time. He is uniting like-minded Jesus followers to band together for the Kingdom of God. His voice is calling out for all to come back to Him so that we can stand before Him unashamed and with hearts that are pure! God loves you and we are on notice with this knowledge that the end is near. Of course we do not have any specifics about the exact day and hour, but we do know. We can't pretend like we don't know.

What can we do in the meantime to ensure we are listening to God? Are there any steps or applications we can have in place in order to know that God is instructing us to do this or do that? I believe there are.

In our Scripture text today, we continue with the follow up to the man who was healed from his crippled state, into a man able to jump for joy praising God for all that He has done.

Stand & Read—Acts 3:11-26

11 While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. 12 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

17 "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. 21 Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. 22 For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among

your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. 23 Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.'

24 "Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. 25 And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' 26 When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

Pray

1. Constructive Listening is Repetitive Listening—verses 11-16

11 While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. 12 When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. 14 You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. 15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus 'name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

- A. Don't you get tired of hearing things over and over? Why is that? Did we forget what we heard?
- B. A pastor preached a sermon one week at church. The following Sunday, the pastor preached the same sermon. Then, for the 3rd Sunday in a row, he preached it again. Finally, a church member approached the pastor and asked him if he had another sermon. The pastor answered, "I do have another sermon, but you haven't obeyed the first one."
- C. We need repetition if you are going to listen to God. He loves us so much that He keeps on reminding us to be obedient and consistent.
- D. **Verse 11**—The people saw this crippled man in his new healed body. This man kept on hanging on to Peter and John.
- E. This colonnade was a covered area of rather lengthy distance. It was here that he was running and jumping while we can assume with Peter and John by his side.
- F. That is the picture of a very grateful and happy man.
- G. **Verse 12**—We see here that the people who were watching seemed surprised.
- H. So, Peter, being Peter, says, why does this surprise you?
- I. I love Peter, he gives us so much to preach about. He says things we only wish we could say at times.
- J. I see Peter with an expression on his face looking at the surprised people and maybe even shaking his head.
- K. Check out what he says: Why do you act as if we did this by our own power?

- L. In other words, we can't do this type of miracle. We don't have the power, but only God does.
- M. We as humans can never make anyone walk if they were lame, or see if they were blind, or speak if they were mute. We aren't capable. Oh, but our God is.
- N. **Verses 13-15**—This is where the repetitive listening comes in for all of us.
- O. How many times is Peter going to remind us of the plan of God? How long will we have to continue to listen to the same old story over and over?
- P. ***Until we get it. Until we obey it. Until He returns for us.*** We need to be constantly reminded of His great love for us over and over.
- Q. We handed him over to Pilate. We disowned him. We killed Jesus with our sin.
- R. **Verse 15**—The reason there is eternal life in Jesus is because He is the author, the creator, and the giver of life.
- S. Even when people believe that Jesus isn't really those titles, it doesn't make it not true.
- T. Unbelief does not change the TRUTH! Unbelief is just that, unbelief.
- U. Some people believe in unicorns, Bigfoot, fairies, and whatnot, but the TRUTH is what we should believe in!
- V. We need truth to be repeated over and over to us until His return.

Illustration—Alphabet, times table, spelling words, etc.

Application—Are you listening to God? What aren't you Listening? What is it going to take for you to listen?

2. Responsive Listening is Active Listening—verses 17-20

17 "Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. 18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

- A. **Verse 17**—Peter looked at the people and must have thought, "Frail Creatures of Dust. What I am going to do with you."
- B. That is all of us. We are just frail creatures of dust. We are weak. We have many faults. We are not good at listening to God.
- C. **Verse 18**—Peter reminds us that God had a perfect plan, and Jesus would suffer through that plan on our behalf.
- D. **Verse 19**—The way we actively listen to God is responding to God.
- E. We respond to God in an act of obedience by repenting of our sins, so that He can wipe out our wayward ways.
- F. Peter tells us that this is a refreshing time! Wow, we can be refreshed when we acknowledge our dependence on Jesus!
- G. **Verse 20**—Jesus was sent for us! We are not alone! We are loved by the Messiah.

Illustration—Active Listening

Marriage is one place where you better know how to be an active listener. We can't pretend not to hear. We can't pretend not to understand. When you actively listen to your spouse, you respond in many different ways. Here are a few:

- Nodding and smiling while they are explaining how to separate and wash clothes according to their color.
- Repeating what you heard after having been given instructions
- The best one is to say yes dear and go do what was asked. Now that is active listening.

Application—When God speaks to us through His Word, through prayer, through the church, or even through circumstances, our responsive is to be an active listener and obey Him. Are you obeying God?

3. Listening to God is Vital to Your Eternal Condition—21-23

21 Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. 22 For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. 23 Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.'

- A. In these last few verses, there is a command given to the hearers of this message that is vital to the eternal condition of the soul.
- B. **Verse 21**—Restoration is vital to your soul. This promise has been in play for centuries. We need restoration.
- C. Everything will be restored when you listen to God
- D. **Verse 22**—Moses said, we must listen to the Messiah. When we listen to Jesus, we will be free.
- E. **Verse 23**—If you chose not to listen to Jesus, do not believe that you will be in heaven with Him when the Day of Judgement comes.
- F. There is no way that Jesus died for nothing. ***He died for everything.*** He makes the rules. There is only one way to heaven and it is through Him.
- G. I am asking you to come to Jesus today!

Illustration—The purpose of the invitation.

Application—Are you going to be with Jesus when He returns? Have you heard His voice today? Listening requires a response to acknowledge that you heard Him. Will you come to Him today?