

## ***Acts Chapter 3***

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V: 1 Peter and John and still hanging out together, walking together to the Temple at the hour of prayer at 3 PM.

- The Jewish day began at 6:00 AM and they had three specific prayer times each day: 0900, 1200, and 3:00 PM.
- In the previous chapter Peter was ministering to thousands, in this chapter he is primarily ministering to one lame man.
- We can discern a number of things from this chapter about Peter and John.
  1. They were men of prayer.
  2. They were men of faith.
  3. They were men who had come to the cross and had no ambitions for themselves.
  4. They were men of the Word, thoroughly knowledgeable of the Scriptures.
  5. They were men that were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- These are the characteristics of the person that God can and does use.
- When God uses a person like this, He will receive the glory for the work that is done through their lives.
- They haven't separated themselves from the Jews or the Temple - not that this is a bad thing. They still worship and pray in the Temple, God uses men and women of prayer. If we want to be used them we must be men and women of prayer.

V: 2 A specific man who was lame from his mother's womb - no hope of an earthly cure. He had to be carried on a stretcher daily and set at the "Beautiful" gate so that he could beg alms of those that passed by.

- If you go to Israel today, particularly in and around the Old City and the gates leading to the Temple mount area and the Western Wall you will find any number of Orthodox Jews standing by and "begging" to those that pass by into the Old city.
- The "Beautiful" gate is the subject of much discussion, but is thought to be the Eastern gate that faces the Kidron Valley and the Mount of Olives. It's the "Beautiful" gate for two reasons.
  1. It the gate that our Lord Jesus used to enter into and out of the Temple.

2. According to Josephus and other sources this gate was more grand than the other gates, constructed bigger with more expensive materials. The other gates and posts were covered in gold. This gate was covered with Corinthian brass that looked much like gold but was actually more expensive. It took 20 men to open each side of the doors.

V: 3-7 According to **Acts 4:22** this paralytic man was over 40 years old. Being lame from birth he had never walked in his entire life. Peter had probably seen this man many times before, but on this occasion he was prompted by the Spirit to stop and talk with him.

- It must have taken a great deal of faith on Peter's part to say to this man, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Although it's not described in this passage there would probably have been some degree of faith on the part of the paralytic, his faith may have been actuated at that moment by the Holy Spirit.
- Peter was a man just like any of us; at that moment Satan was probably whispering in his ear, "you're crazy, he's not going to walk." "What if you pick him up and he just falls back down?..." He had to look past all of that and simply trust the Lord.

V: 6 As Peter being prompted by the Spirit boldly looked the man in the eyes and stated "silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

- Thomas Aquinas / Pope / Counting / no longer say...
- Peter & John two of the A-team Apostles didn't have any silver or gold - they didn't have any money... they weren't in it for the money.

**1 Peter 5:2** "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind."

- Peter could effectively make this statement, he was qualified to press the point because he's lived it out in a very practical way.

[Paul related to this in a way:](#)

**Romans 15:18** "For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me (accomplished), to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed."

- Basically Peter & John had nothing else to offer, and neither do we.

**Acts 4:12** "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Jesus said:

**John 14:6** "... I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."

- As Peter spoke, he said "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" - the son of Mary, the carpenter, who lived at 124 N. Elm street, in the blue house... Positively identifying Jesus, distinguishing Him from anyone else.
- Secondly he declared that it was in Jesus' name, by the power of Jesus - as opposed to in Peter's name, or Moses' name, or Zeus, Krishna or Buddah. Giving credit where credit was due - directing the glory to God.

**Isaiah 42:8** "I am the Lord: that is my name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images."

- The last part of what he said was "rise up and walk..." When Jesus has truly touched our lives, He lifts us up out of the pit - and says now walk with Me, walk, move - and we begin our faith walk with Jesus.

V: 7 Peter said the words then he acted on them and took the man by the right hand and lifted him up and "immediately" his feet and ankles received strength.

- There was no hesitation or gradual healing - his healing was immediate.
- The second unspoken miracle is that he immediately knew how to walk and to jump. Most people have to learn this as a child but he'd never been able to do that due to his disability - it was all part of the package.
- "Immediately" is a commonly used word when Jesus is around:

**Matthew 8:3** "And Jesus put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."

**John 5:8-9** "<sup>8</sup>Jesus saith unto him, rise, take up thy bed, and walk. <sup>9</sup>And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked..."

V:8 Peter is lifting him by his right hand and at the same time the lame man is pushing with his legs and he comes up leaping - and walking.

- He didn't run home to tell his parents, he didn't run back through town to show off - he began to walk with the disciples who were going into the Temple to pray and as he did so he was praising God! First thing, he's praising and thanking the Lord.

**Psalm 100:4** “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.”

- There is a comparison here that we should see:

**Psalm 1:1** “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

- Blessed is the man who doesn't do these things, and, or cursed is the man who does.
- The man described in **Psalm 1** digresses from walking, to standing, to sitting.
- The lame man in our passage here in Acts started out sitting, he was lame, he was on the ground that's why Peter had to lift him up. But he moves or progresses from sitting, to standing, leaping actually, then to walking - just the opposite of the man in **Psalm 1**.
- The man in our passage is now walking with Peter & John, not the counsel or company of the ungodly, not in the way of sinners, they're on their way into the Temple to pray and to worship - the very opposite of the scornful - he's praising God! In a way he's the fulfillment of Psalm 1 - blessed is that man!
- We also see in this man an illustration of what salvation is like.
  1. He was born lame, just like all of us, we are born unable to walk so as to please God.
  2. Our father Adam had a fall and passed his lameness on to all of his descendants.
  3. The man was poor, a beggar and we as sinners are bankrupt before God, unable to pay the tremendous debt that we owe Him.
  4. He was “outside the temple,” just as all sinners are separated from God, no matter how near to the door they might be.
  5. This man was healed wholly by the grace of God, and the healing was immediate. We are saved by grace, completely, and totally at that moment.
  6. He gave evidence, testimony, a witness of what God had done by “walking, and leaping, and praising God” and by publicly identifying himself with the Apostles, both in the temple (Acts 3:11) and in their arrest (Acts 4:14).
  7. Now that he could stand, there was no question *where* he stood!

V: 9-11 All the people saw him; he was a witness to them of God's power, His mercy, and His grace - they were witnesses to the miracle to which they could testify.

V: 12 Peter discerns the the people are beginning to focus on him which he immediately seeks to correct and re-direct.

- Like the old hymn: *"To God be the glory for the great things He hath done!"*
- Peter is being very careful here:

**Isaiah 48:11** "... I will not give My glory to another."

- Like Peter, Paul in a similar way understood that he was simply an instrument of God

**Galatians 2:20** "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

- Peter is saying don't look at us, look at Jesus!

V: 13-15 Peter re-directs the focus to Jesus; he points to Jesus and he points to the resurrection, which he's seen with his own eyes.

- The Gospel of John describes Pilate's effort to release Jesus. Pilate didn't want to condemn Jesus, but he was badgered by the crowd into doing it. Matthew's Gospel describes Pilate literally washing his hands and saying that he was innocent of this injustice.

V: 14 *"But ye denied the Holy One and the Just..."* Peter could relate to this as well, he knows the pain that this would bring and the eternal suffering if they would continue in their denial.

V: 16 By the name of Jesus and faith in His name - that is where the power came from to heal this man.

- Faith is a gift of the Spirit, faith to believe unto salvation, and faith to believe in that moment that God wants to work through the miraculous.

**1 Corinthians 12:9** "To another faith by the same Spirit..."

James tells us:

**James 4:2** "... yet ye have not, because ye ask not."

Jesus said:

**John 14:13-14** “<sup>13</sup>And whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

- Again, Peter is very careful not to take credit or to tamper with God’s glory, pointing to Jesus.

V: 17-18 Peter softens things just a little bit; giving them hope “you did it, but I know that you did it in ignorance” - all these things were prophesied of - and ordained of God.

**Luke 23:34** “Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

- How is it that the Jews, who read the scriptures so diligently including **Isaiah 53** and **Psalms 22** didn’t see that the Messiah would suffer? How could they just so completely miss these prophesies that dealt with the suffering of the Messiah.
- They missed it because they “spiritualized” the scriptures to match their pre-conceived idea that the Messiah would come in glory, victoriously, conquering their foes.

V: 19 Repent and be converted, be forgiven. The message of repentance is not new to them, John the Baptist and Jesus both preached it.

**Matthew 3:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, <sup>2</sup>and saying, repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

**Matthew 4:17** “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- This is the same basic message as at Pentecost; focusing on Jesus, His death and resurrection, and repentance which leads to forgiveness.
- Repent: to turn away from our sins. To think differently, which leads to acting differently. He’s not saying “get your life together”, he’s saying “change your mind,” think differently - learn.

**Romans 12:2** “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

- In one sense repentance is a gift from God:

**Acts 11:18** “When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, then hath God also to the Gentiles granted / given repentance unto life.”

- In another sense repentance is the response of our heart to the ministry of the Holy Spirit convicting us of sin:

Speaking of the Holy Spirit - Jesus said:

**John 16:8** “And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

- The person who truly repents will not have any trouble receiving Jesus!
- Conversion: transformed, to be born again.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Jesus said:

**John 3:3** “... verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**John 3:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again.”

- “Blotted out” - The fact that our sins can be blotted out is glorious, especially to me! We need not carry the weight and burden of our sins, Jesus takes them away.

**Matthew 11:28-30** “<sup>28</sup>Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. <sup>30</sup>For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

- The time of “refreshing” is when Jesus comes and makes all things new! The 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus.

V: 20-21 When we're “converted,” when we invite Jesus into our hearts He does just that Jesus comes to live in our hearts.

- Jesus resides in our hearts, and He resides in heaven waiting for the fulfillment of all things that will lead to His coming again - the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus.
- All of this being foretold by the prophets.

Jesus prophesied:

**Luke 21:24** “And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.”

- We are currently living in the “times of the Gentiles.” It began with the Babylonian captivity and it will run up until the rapture of the church when the “fullness of the Gentiles” be fulfilled.
- We’re close, in 1967 the Israeli’s took control of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount, but they gave control of it back to the Arabs.

V: 22 Peter is referring back to **Deuteronomy 18:15**.

**Deuteronomy 18:15** “The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken.”

- Jesus is that prophet and we need to listen to Him, we need to take heed to what He says!
- This scripture is one of the reasons why the Jews reject Jesus as the Messiah. They say that Moses was a man, so if the Messiah is like him, then the Messiah will be a man.
- Since Jesus claimed to be God, the Son of God, then He’s not qualified to be the Messiah. (Jesus, fully God, and fully man!)
- But they also have a hard time reconciling:

**Isaiah 9:6** “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

**Psalms 2:7** “I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”

- At the time of Christ all the rabbi’s believed that the Messiah would be the Son of God.
- This was why they crucified Jesus because He claimed to be the Son of God.

**Matthew 26:63** “But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto Him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.”



- The idea of the Messiah being just a man is a new invention by the rabbi's and it creates a problem for them because now they've got to figure out which man.
- Now they believe that it's the man who will help or lead them in the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem - and the anti-Christ will gladly oblige them when it comes time.

V: 23 To not listen, to not receive His message of salvation is to reject life and embrace death.

**John 3:36** "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

V: 24-25 There are over 300 prophesies that speak of the Messiah, which only Jesus fulfills.

- You / they / the Jews are descendants of the prophets and partakers of the covenant that God has made with Israel that impacts all people.

**Genesis 12:3** "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

- This speaks of the Messiah, of Jesus who will provide a way for salvation to all the families of the earth, to those who would receive it.
- Peter is quoting from **Genesis 22:18**.

**Genesis 22:18** "And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed My voice."

- Neither Peter, nor Genesis says "seeds" plural, but "seed" singular, specific.

**Galatians 3:16** "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promise made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ."

V: 26 Unto you first, then the Jews.

**Romans 1:16** "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

- God gave us the Law to turn us from our iniquities:

**Psalms 19:7** "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord us sure, making wise the simple."

**1 John 2:1** “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”