

## Acts 3 – The Healing of the Lame Man

(we will probably break this up into two lessons. This week we will look at the miracle – 3:1-10, and next week we will look at Peter’s sermon explaining the miracle (11-26)

### I. The Lame Shall Leap For Joy...Isa. 35:6 (Acts 3:1-10)

#### A. The Encounter with The Lame Man (1-2)

##### 1. Peter and John Go To the Temple (1)

- a. Peter and John were going to the Temple to pray – There were three times of prayer in Jerusalem. The 9<sup>th</sup> hour was 3pm
- b. Notice that Peter and John went together. Why just them? Perhaps they were going out two by two to be witnesses of Jesus in the Temple complex when crowds would gather there
- c. There is no indication that any believers continued to participate in the Temple Sacrifices – Jesus is now the focus of their worship

##### 2. A Lame Beggar Sits at the Temple Gate (2)

- a. The man had been crippled from birth – Think about that. His legs didn’t quit working. They had never worked!
- b. Every day, he was carried to the Temple gate to beg – perhaps because of the crowds that would stream in to pray
- c. It is likely that the man had sat at the gate begging for decades – maybe he had seen or heard Jesus preaching in the Temple complex

##### 3. The Lame Man Calls for Alms (3)

- a. The man probably was calling out “Alms for the poor” or repeating some phrase as the crowd streamed into the Temple complex
- b. Imagine saying the same thing over and over, all day long. It probably became a monotonous and lifeless voice (like when people sit at the front of Wal-Mart asking every person that walks by for a donation)
- c. There was no welfare in those days. The man was dependent on the generosity of those going to the Temple for each day’s meal. He also depended on those taking him to and from the Temple gate.

#### B. The Healing of the Lame Man (4-7)

##### 1. Peter Commands the Man’s Attention (4-5)

- a. The man was probably just yelling “alms for the poor,” and not looking people in the eye

- b. Perhaps he was ashamed or just used to the faceless crowds walking past him
  - c. Peter does not let him remain indifferent – He demanded that the man look up at them from the dirt
  - d. The man looked expectantly at them, hoping to get some small amount of money
    - i. We often ask for small insignificant things when God has so much more He desires to give
    - ii. The man wanted some change, but he received healing and eternal life
- 2. Peter Commands the Man to Walk (6)
  - a. I wonder if the beggar was disappointed when Peter said he didn't have any silver or gold?
  - b. Instead of money, Peter gives the man a command – Get up and walk
  - c. He commanded the man to do something he had never done – and was not able to do
    - i. It is Jesus' power that enables the man to do what he cannot do
    - ii. It is Jesus' power that enables us to live for him – something we are also not able to do in our own strength
- 3. Peter Lifted the Man and He Was Healed (7)
  - a. The miracle happens when Peter grabs the man and lifts him to his feet – immediately his feet and ankles are made strong
  - b. Notice that it is Jesus' power that heals him (Peter will explain this later) but it is Peter's hand that lifts the man up.
    - i. God uses His children to do His mighty works
    - ii. God saves sinners, but He uses His people to proclaim the gospel to them

#### C. The Result of The Healing (8)

- 1. The Man Leaped to His Feet
- 2. The Man Stood
- 3. The Man Began to Walk
- 4. The Man Entered the Temple Leaping for Joy
  - a. This would have been a dishonorable display for a Jewish man in the Temple courts
  - b. The man was so happy and thankful, he didn't care what it looked like. He was overcome with joy.
- 5. The Man Praised God For His Healing
  - a. It was the name of Jesus by which he was healed but the man rightly praises God for his healing – the man understand that Jesus is God

- b. Peter will later explain the connection of God and Jesus' name

D. The Effect of the Healing (9-10)

1. The People Recognized the Beggar
  - a. He had been at the Temple begging so long that many people knew him well as a beggar
  - b. The miracle was undeniable. Things like this don't just happen. A man born lame would never walk unless a miracle had taken place
2. They People Were Amazed at the Miracle
  - a. This provides the perfect opportunity for Peter to preach
  - b. He will explain that the resurrected Jesus is the Messiah who healed the man.

II. Peter Explains the Miracle (11-26)

A. Peter Begins His Second Sermon (11)

1. The People began to gather together under Solomon's Portico
  - a. Once again we see that Peter will explain the miracle by Preaching a sermon about Jesus
  - b. Miracles in Acts are not divorced from the preaching of the gospel. It is Jesus and His gospel that explains the miracles of Acts
2. The Healed Man Still clung to Peter and John
  - a. We can only imagine how grateful he was
  - b. The people were crowding around as if Peter and John were themselves the miracle workers

B. Peter Shows that Jesus Healed the Lame Man (12-18)

1. Peter and John Take No Credit For the Miracle (12)
  - a. They ask the crowd why they would think Peter and John had accomplished the miracle
  - b. We will see later that Peter also rejects the idea that he somehow manipulated God to cause the miracle
    - i. He is not especially good or righteous
    - ii. He does not have special power in his prayers
  - c. The Jews had come to pray to God but failed to see that God Himself had done this great work in their midst
2. Peter Claims God's Messiah Healed the Lame Man (13-18)
  - a. God has glorified the Suffering Servant (13a)
    - i. Notice that Peter connects Jesus' ministry with the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
      - Jesus and His resurrection is not a separate plan from the Old Testament
      - Jesus and His resurrection is the fulfillment of God's plan for His people
      - Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel's Fathers

- ii. God glorified His Servant Jesus
    - Peter is referring to the suffering servant foretold in the prophet Isaiah
    - He is called God's servant in Isa. 52:13
    - He bore our griefs, was stricken, and by his wounds we were healed in Isa. 53:4-6
  - iii. **Peter Claims Jesus was Foretold in Isaiah**
- b. The People Rejected God's Anointed One (13b-15)
  - i. The crowd expected an explanation of the miracle and instead they are accused of killing the giver of life.
  - ii. Notice the verbs Peter uses to accuse the crowd – "delivered over, denied, and killed"
    - They delivered him over to be killed and denied Him in front of Pilate who wanted to release Him
    - They chose a murderer over the Holy and Righteous one (Isaiah calls God the Holy one of Israel)
    - They murdered the Author of Life
  - iii. Before we condemn them to harshly, we deny him daily in our words and actions. We also choose the world over Him every time we sin.
- 3. Peter Claims Faith in Jesus' Name Healed the Man (16)
  - a. Peter emphasizes that it is by the name of Jesus that this healing took place – Only God can heal like this, so Peter is equating the name of Jesus with the power of God, just like he did in Acts 2 (Baptized in Jesus name.)
  - b. Peter also emphasizes that the healing came through faith in Jesus' name
    - i. It was not the miraculous power of Peter or John – it was their trust and faith in Jesus
    - ii. The text doesn't exactly say whether it was Peter's faith in Jesus or the lame man's faith. Although the lame man did praise God when he was healed which suggests he believed in Jesus.
    - iii. Regardless, the point is that the object of faith – Jesus Christ – has made the man whole
    - iv. Jesus is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy
  - c. Notice that the miracle is undeniable – the people have seen and know the lame man and they can see that he now walks
- 4. Peter Claims God Used The People's Ignorance to Fulfill His Word (17-18)
  - a. Peter acknowledges that the people acted out of ignorance – not knowing who Jesus truly was

- i. This does not release them from the guilt of their actions – they broke God’s law by unlawfully trying and sentencing an innocent man
    - ii. They are still morally responsible for their sin – even if they did it out of ignorance – the same principle applies to us
  - b. God used their ignorance and sin to fulfill His Word
    - i. God foretold that Christ would be betrayed and killed
    - ii. The death of Jesus was not just a tragic circumstance or a surprise to God – It was part of His plan
    - iii. The Son’s purpose was always to die
- C. Peter Calls The People To Turn To God (19-24)
  - 1. God Calls For Repentance (19-21)
    - a. Repent and Be Forgiven (19)
      - i. Remember that Peter was talking to religious Jews in the Temple to pray – they believed they were following God
      - ii. Peter tells them they are in need to repent and turn to God (through Jesus)
      - iii. Peter makes no apologies in telling the people they were actually not right with God
      - iv. Only through accepting God’s Suffering Servant and trusting in Him can their sins be forgiven
    - b. God Will Send Christ and Times of Refreshing (20)
      - i. If they repent, Christ will come to them as well
        - In a real sense, Jesus does come by the Spirit to all those who accept Him
        - Peter also speaks here of the second coming of Christ (which is clear in the next few verses)
      - ii. The times of refreshing refer immediately to the coming of the Holy Spirit
        - This inaugurated the “last days”
        - The last days will be culminated in the restoration of all things when Jesus returns
    - c. Jesus Remains in Heaven Until the Restoration (21)
      - i. At the moment, Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father
        - Yet his ministry and work continues by the Holy Spirit through the Apostles
        - He will remain there until creation is renewed and the curse of sin is abolished
      - ii. All the prophets foretold of this time

2. Scripture Calls for Repentance and Faith in Christ (22-24)
  - a. Moses Commanded Submission to Christ (22-23)
    - i. Peter again uses Scripture to preach Jesus
      - He quoted Deut. 18:15-20 combined with part of Lev. 23:29
      - In Deut. 18, the people were about to cross into the promised land and Moses would not accompany them. He told them that God would raise up a prophet from among them and they would be accountable to submit to Him.
      - Peter shows that Moses spoke of Jesus as that prophet
      - Lev. 23:29 was part of the stipulations Israel must observe on the day of atonement. The penalty for failing to deny themselves was the removal from the community – the point is that Jesus is the atonement and failure to submit to Him meant removal from the community of God.
    - ii. Peter shows them that Moses Himself also foretold Jesus' coming
  - b. All the Prophets Spoke of this New Age (24)
    - i. All the Old Testament spoke of Jesus
    - ii. They could no longer claim to follow the God of Israel if they reject Jesus
- D. Peter Calls the Jews To Respond to God's Covenant (25-26)
  1. The Jews are The Sons of Abraham's Covenant (25)
    - a. Peter reminds them that God promised Abraham that through His seed all the world would be blessed
    - b. Peter says that Jesus is this promised Seed who has been sent to them – He is the fulfillment of Abraham's promise
  2. God Has Sent Abraham's Seed to Them First (26)
    - a. God has fulfilled the promise to Abraham in sending Jesus
    - b. The "Seed" of Abraham was sent to the Jews first because it was the Jews who are descendent from Abraham
    - c. God has kept his promise to the Jews and given them the promise of Abraham.

So we see that Peter explains the powerful healing by pointing to the death and resurrection of Christ. And once again, Peter shows that Moses, Isaiah, and all the prophets foretold of Jesus' coming. He also says that Jesus is the fulfillment of the

Abrahamic covenant to the Jews and the world. Israel could no longer claim to be in covenant with God unless they submit to Jesus Christ.