

Acts 3: The Healing of the Lame Man Sunday AM 11/29/20

Introduction:

The first Gospel sermon is recorded in **Acts 2**. This was just the beginning as there more who would need to hear the Word of God. In some ways the chapter is almost the forgotten chapter in Acts.

I) The Scene

Acts 3:1 *Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;*

A) At the temple

1. This was a place of worship
2. This was a time of worship – prayer, about 3 pm.
3. Beautiful gate – folding doors 59 feet high, 40 feet wide. Covered with gold and Corinthians brass.

B) Apostles had worked miracles since day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:43 *Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.*

1. Unable to help himself, had to rely on the mercy and grace of others.
2. A lot we don't know about him, his age, how long this had been going on, etc.
3. Why was he taken to the temple? Place to beg.

Deuteronomy 15:7 *"If there is among you a poor man of*

your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother, 8 "but you shall open your hand wide to him and willingly lend him sufficient for his need, whatever he needs.

II) Peter, John and the Miracle

Acts 3:3 *who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."*

A) They saw the man and commanded him to "look at us"

1. If you ever been around panhandlers you know the person is trying to make eye contact with you.
2. However the two men commanded him to look at them.

B) What they did and not have to offer the man.

Acts 3:5 *So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*

1. They did not offer him what he was asking for "silver and gold"
 - a. This was what he was hoping for, expecting.
 - b. How disappointed he must have been.
2. What they did have to offer "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk"

Acts 3:7 *And he took him by the right hand and lifted*

him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.

- a. He received more than he could have hoped for.
 - b. He received what he truly needed.
3. The source of this blessing was “Jesus of Nazareth”
 4. Jesus was a fairly common name so they specified who this Jesus was.

Acts 3:9 *And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. 11 Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.*

III) Peter's Sermon

A) Jesus of Nazareth

Acts 3:12 *So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"*

1. People often get caught up in personalities, figure heads.
2. This was the time to make sure the audience focused on Jesus.

Acts 3:16 *"And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."*

3. Great news, right?

B) This Jesus whom you crucified.

Acts 3:13 *"The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. 14 "But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 "and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses."*

1. This miracle came by Jesus whom our God sent.

2. Jesus whom you delivered up and denied.

a. Handed Jesus to Pilate.

John 19:14 *Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"*

John 19:15 *But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"*

3. Choice between a murderer and the Prince of life!

Acts 3:15 *"and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses."*

4. You killed but God raised Him up.

Acts 2:24 *"whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.*

C) Of which God had foretold.

Acts 3:17 *"Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 "But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.*

1. Important for everyone to remember, God knew Jesus would be betrayed and crucified. **Psalm 22; Isaiah 53.**
2. Jesus spoke of His death while in His ministry.

John 2:20 *Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.*

3. You did this in ignorance? How?

D) Repent - **Acts 3:19** *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

1. Repentance is a change of mind, will, focus, and purpose.
2. Be converted – is the outer obedience which follows repentance.
 - a. Repent and flee to God
 - b. **James 4:7** *Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God*

and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

E) Restoration

Acts 3:19 *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, 20 "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, 21 "whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

1. Blotting out – removal of sin by the blood of Jesus.
2. Sense of refreshing is like the new birth.
3. Jesus is the Messiah, Savior in heaven at the right hand of God.

F) Jesus fulfilled the prophecies.

Acts 3:22 *"For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. 23 'And it shall be that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'*

1. Cumulation of God's plan of redemption.

Acts 3:24 *"Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.*

2. God's promises to Abraham fulfilled.

Acts 3:25 *"You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'*

3. Purpose of all of this.

Acts 3:26 *"To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."*

IV) Three Points of Application.

A) **This lame man did not receive what he expected but much more.**

1. What to some people look to Jesus for?
 - a. Physical blessings – health/wealth ministries.
 - b. Acceptance of their sins – some think Jesus would never condemn their sin.
2. What Jesus offers is a different type of healing as shown by this man.
3. We all need the removal of sin.

B) **People often do things in ignorance.**

1. Ignorance – without understanding.
2. Then come of their senses as the Prodigal Son in **Luke 15.17**.

C) **You have to see the “big picture”**

1. Not just the temporary but the eternal.
2. What his man needed was more than gold or silver, we need Jesus.