

“In The Name Of Jesus”

Acts 3:1-26

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Teaching Aim: To examine the circumstances surrounding the miraculous healing at the temple of a beggar who had been lame from his mother’s womb. To understand this man wasn’t healed by any power of Peter or John, but rather in the name of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ of Nazareth. To recognize the boldness of Peter now that he was preaching under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. To realize the number of believing men rose by around 2,000 following Peter’s sermon.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S Word (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: A crippled man from birth healed at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3:1-10)

1. Which two disciples went to the temple in Jerusalem to pray (**vs. 1**)? During what time of the day did the men arrive at the temple? How many times of prayer were there? What can we learn about the beggar from **verse 2**? Why did his family or friends lay him at the gate of the temple? Which gate did they lay him by? Note: The brokenness of the man stood in stark contrast to the beauty of the temple and the health of the worshipers passing by.

2. What did this man ask Peter and John for as they approached the Beautiful Gate (**vs. 3**)? What are “*alms*?” (See Dictionary) What is the purpose behind them? Did Peter and John reach into their pockets to give him money (**vs. 4**)? What did they do? Peter and John had no intention of giving him any money, but Peter did demand his full attention. Peter had a much greater blessing coming for the crippled man to receive.

3. Probably surprised by the response of Peter, the man looked directly at him most-likely expecting money (**vs. 5**). How did Peter respond to him in **verse 6**? What did the man receive? What made this miracle all the more remarkable? (See **Acts 4:21-22**)

4. In the Bible, a person’s name often describes something about the individual. What does the name “*Jesus*” mean (**vs. 6**)? (Hint: Search Online) What was the significance of Peter saying, “*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk?*”

5. The man must have been stunned at the thought and he initially hesitated. What did Peter do to move him along a little faster (**vs. 7**)? What happened immediately to the man's legs and feet. Who was the author of the Book of Acts? What was his profession? (Hint: Search Online) Why is this important here?

6. The Nelson's Bible Commentary says, *"Instantly strength was given to the portions of the body that needed it. Blood supply was increased to the muscle. The brain sent signals to the nerve endings of the ankles and feet. The hardened fluid between the joints was softened, and the atrophied muscles and ligaments regained flexibility. The feet suddenly could bear the man's weight."* How does the opposite of the saying, "Use it or lose it" apply to this miracle?

7. How did this man who had never walked in his life react to being on his feet (**vs. 8**)? What were some of the Old Testament signs that the Messiah had arrived? (See **Isa. 35:5-6; 61:1**) How did the miracle affect the multitudes who were at the temple gate (**vv. 9-10**)? Why?

Part II: Peter's preaching at Solomon's Porch in the temple complex (Acts 3:11-18)

1. What was the man's response once he realized that he had been healed (**vs. 11**)? Have you hung on to Jesus since He healed you from sin and death? If so, how? Where were the people as we come to **verse 11**? Was this an area where Jesus had previously used for teaching? (See **John 10:22-24**) Why here?

2. As Peter looked at the crowd quickly forming, he saw an opportunity to preach and took it (**vs. 12**). What was the first thing Peter cleared up in **verse 12** so that there would be no misunderstanding? Who should the glory for this healing go to (**vs. 13**)? Do you find yourself giving glory to the God for the good things that have happened to you?

3. It is important to remember Peter was addressing a Jewish audience at the temple. Who are the first Old Testament examples that Peter used to make his point (**vs. 13**)? Why did he choose these three? In **verse 13**, Peter identified Jesus as God's "Servant." The Jews were expecting a reigning Messiah, not a suffering Servant. How do we see Jesus as "the Suffering Servant" in **Isa. 52:13-53:12**? What can we learn about Jesus from this passage?

4. Who was charged with demanding the crucifixion of Jesus Christ at the very same moment that Pilate wanted to release Him (**vs. 14**)? Who did the Jews want released instead? What was this man guilty of? (See **Luke 23:13-19**) What name did Peter give to Jesus in **verse 15**? What can we learn about Jesus from this? What did God do to Jesus according to **verse 15**? Warren Wiersbe wrote, "*Calvary may have been man's last word, but the empty tomb was God's last word.*"

5. The Jews were a part of the killing of Jesus, but now God had raised Him from the dead and the healing was proof. It was through faith in the name of Jesus that the crippled man had been completely healed in the presence of many witnesses, but whose faith (**vs. 16**)?

6. According to **verse 17**, did the Jews crucify Jesus with full knowledge of what they had done, or was it done in ignorance? What does the word "*ignorant*" mean? (See Dictionary) What Old Testament prophecies proclaimed that Jesus would suffer (**vs. 18**)? (See **Psa. 22:14-18; Isa. 53:5; Zech. 12:10**) What unique aspect of His suffering is found in each passage? Note: The cross was the meeting place of God's sovereignty and human responsibility. The Jews and the Roman officers would be held accountable.

Part III: Peter calls on the Jews to repent and convert to faith in Christ (Acts 3:19-26)

1. After convicting many of his hearers that day, Peter then offered salvation to those who would repent (**vs. 19**)? (See **1 John 1:9**) What did Peter promise would happen if the people would repent? What does the word "*repentance*" mean? (See Dictionary) What was Peter speaking of when he referred to "*the times of refreshing*?" (See Commentaries)

2. How are our sins "*blotted out*" when we come to faith in Christ? How far are our sins removed from us? How? (See **Psa. 103:11-12; Col. 2:13-15**)

3. According to **verse 20**, what will happen once the Jewish nation repents? (See Commentaries) Why is this message so important for our own nation today? What should we be repenting from?

4. For how long will Jesus be in heaven (**vs. 21**)? Note: Today we live in “*the age of grace*,” the period of time between the cross of Christ and His Second Coming. Are you looking forward to the return of Christ? Why?

5. In **verse 22**, we find Peter referring to three Old Testament passages: **Duet. 18:15,18 & 19**. What is the theme of all three verses? Who is “*the Prophet*” and how will He be like Moses? What will happen to every soul who does not hear (or listen to) the Prophet (**vs. 23**)? How do we see this being played out in the world today? How many ways are there for people to go to heaven? (See **John 14:6; Acts 4:12**)

6. What Old Testament prophet is specifically named in **verse 24**? What relationship did this prophet have to King David and the Davidic Covenant? (See **1 Sam. 13:14; 15:28; 16:11-13; 28:17**) Who will be the ultimate fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant? (See **2 Sam. 7:8-16**) When will the Davidic Covenant ultimately be fulfilled?

7. As “*sons of the Prophets*,” the Jewish religious establishment should have recognized Jesus as the Messiah (**vs. 25**). He is “*the seed*” that had been prophesied in the Old Testament. (See **Gen. 12:2-3; 3:15**) Which people group received this message first according to **verse 26**?

8. The Gospel message was first sent to the Jews, but after their rejection of Christ as a nation, God opened the door for the gospel to go to the Gentiles. **Gal. 3:26-29** tells us that if we are in Christ, we are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. What does this mean for you personally?

9. Will the day ever come when Israel turns back to having a right relationship with God? If so, when will it be? (See **Rom. 11:25b-27**). Following Peter’s dynamic sermon, what did the Jewish religious establishment do to both Peter and John? (See **Acts 4:1-4**) How many people came to the Lord that day through Peter’s sermon? When is the last time that you shared the gospel with someone? Are you willing to try again?

10. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so in prayer right now?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- The early Christians continued worshiping at the temple in Jerusalem like the Jews.
- Sometimes God will give us a better answer to our requests than what we asked for.
- The miracle healing of the lame man was instantaneous and especially remarkable since the man had been born crippled and had not been able to walk even once during his entire life.
- Following Pentecost, Peter's preaching became dynamic as he spoke more often under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- Peter's sermon was definitely not politically correct or seeker sensitive, he hammered the members of the Sanhedrin for what they had done to Jesus.
- He did acknowledge the religious leaders had acted in ignorance as they crucified Jesus.
- Peter challenged the Jews to repent of their sin and receive Christ; 2,000 men did.
- Only after the nation of Israel repents as a whole and receives Christ as Savior will Jesus return to earth to set up his Millennial Kingdom.
- Believing Jews and believing Gentiles together comprise the promised seed of Abraham.