

Acts 3**Lesson 3**
Healing of the Lame Man and a Sermon on Christ**Outline****I. Healing of the Lame Man (vv. 1-11)**

- A. *The lame man expected money from Peter and John* (vv. 1-5)
- B. *Peter healed the lame man* (vv. 6-8)
- C. *The people who saw it were amazed* (vv. 9-11)

II. Peter's Sermon about Jesus (vv. 12-26)

- A. *Jesus: The suffering servant* (vv. 12-21)
 - 1. This miracle was not by our own power (v. 12)
 - 2. You killed God's servant (vv. 13-15a, 17-18)
 - a. You denied the Holy One and released a murderer (vv. 13-14)
 - b. You killed the prince of life (v. 15)
 - c. Through your ignorance (v. 17)
 - d. Foretold by the prophets that he must suffer (v. 18)
 - 3. God raised him (v. 15b)
 - 4. Through Christ – this lame man was healed (v. 16)
 - 5. Therefore, repent and be converted (vv. 19-21)
- B. *Jesus: the prophet of prophecy* (vv. 22-24)
 - 1. Moses (vv. 22-23)
 - a. God would raise up a prophet like him (v. 22)
 - b. If you don't hear him – you will be destroyed (v. 23)
 - 2. Samuel and others (v. 24).
- C. *Jesus: the seed of Abraham* (vv. 25-26)
 - 1. The promise to Abraham (v. 25)
 - 2. God raised up Christ to bless you in turning you away from sin (v. 26)

Key Verse that Summarizes the Chapter**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.

In this chapter the apostles work a miracle which creates an occasion for another sermon about Jesus, his death and resurrection, and what it means.

Healing of the Lame Man (vv. 1-11)

The lame man expected money from Peter and John (vv. 1-5). As Peter and John went to the temple (about 3 PM), they passed by a lame man begging for money. The man was at least 40 years old (Acts 4:22) and had been lame since birth (v. 2). He had to be carried to the door of the temple where he sat every day begging (v. 2). Seeing Peter and John he asked them for money (v. 3). Even after they spoke to him (v. 4), he thought they were about to hand him some money (v. 5). He was not asking for or expecting a miracle.

Peter healed the lame man (vv. 6-8). Peter explained that he didn't have silver and gold to give him, but he would give him something far greater.¹ He told him to get up and walk by the power of Jesus Christ (v. 6). Immediately, the man (who had been lame) was healed, started walking, leaping and praising God (vv. 7-8).

The people who saw were amazed (vv. 9-11). Knowing that this was the same man who always sat at the Beautiful Gate, the people who saw him leaping were filled with wonder and amazement.

From this chapter the nature of true miracles is seen as opposed to the claims of modern day miracles. (1) This miracle was *immediate* (v. 7). It didn't take time for the man to get better. (2) It was *complete* (v. 16). The man was restored to "perfect soundness." (3) It was *evident to all* (vv. 9, 16). The people were not merely told about a miracle somewhere. It did not involve something that could not be seen by all. (4) *Faith* required was on the part of the *performer* (v. 16). The lame man was not expecting a miracle (v. 5). He had no basis for faith. There is no evidence he had faith (prior to the miracle).²

Peter's Sermon about Jesus (vv. 12-26)

The amazement of the people served as an occasion for Peter to explain that it was not by their own power that the apostles healed this man, but by the power of Jesus who was raised from the dead (vv. 12, 16).³ His sermon has three main points.

Jesus: the suffering servant (vv. 12-21). The miracle was possible because God glorified his servant, Jesus, by raising him from the dead (vv. 13-15). This Jesus is the very one that

1 From this verse (v. 6) we learn a practical lesson: there are some things worth more than silver and gold (one's soul, forgiveness, hope, a good name, etc.).

2 When the disciples failed to work a miracle, the Lord said it was *their* lack of faith, not the recipient of the miracle (Matt. 17:14-21).

3 "They never regarded themselves as the sources of power but only as channels of power. They were well aware of the limitations of what they could do. They were also well aware that there was no limitations to what the Risen Christ could do through them and with them. Therein lies the secret of the Christian life. The Christian knows that so long as he thinks of what I can do and what I can be, there will be nothing but failure and frustration and fear; but when he thinks of 'not I, but Christ in me' there can be nothing but peace and power" (William Barclay, *Acts of the Apostles*, 30-31).

they had delivered up and denied before Pilate (even though he was the Holy One and the Just), while asking that a murderer be released (vv. 13-15). They killed the prince of life (v. 15a). They did it in ignorance (v. 17).⁴ The prophets foretold that he would suffer (v. 18; cf. Psa. 22; Isa. 53; Dan. 9:26).

God raised him from the dead which can be established by eyewitness testimony (v. 15b). It is through the risen Christ that this man was healed (v. 16).

This calls for repentance and obedience (v. 19). This verse is parallel with Acts 2:38. "Be converted" is here in the place of "be baptized".⁵ "That your sins may be blotted out" is parallel with the "remission of sins". When one is baptized, a time of refreshing (parallel to "gift of the Holy Spirit")⁶ comes from the Lord. This is a spiritual refreshing that comes when the burden of sin is gone.

This risen savior, Jesus Christ, God will send again (v. 20).⁷ He will remain in heaven until the "restoration of all things" which was foretold by the prophets (v. 21). The restoration of all things refers to the work of the Christ in saving man as foretold in the Old Testament.⁸ This work has begun, but is not yet complete. The first coming marks the beginning; the second coming marks the end.

Jesus: the prophet of prophecy (vv. 22-24). Moses foretold that God would raise up a prophet like him (Deut. 18:15-19). Jesus is that prophet. The two prophets are alike in many ways. Both were leaders, prophets, law-givers, and mediators. Since Jesus is the prophet of prophecy, we should hear him in all that he says.⁹ One who doesn't hear and heed him will be punished (v. 23). All the prophets from Samuel on foretold of these days (the day of the Messiah).

Jesus: the seed of Abraham (vv. 25-26). Those whom Peter addressed were "sons of the prophets, and of the covenant" because they were heirs of all blessings and benefits from what the prophets foretold and from the covenant made with Abraham. God's promise to Abraham was that all families of the earth would be blessed in his seed (Gen. 12:1-3). The seed is identified as Jesus (v. 26). All families of the earth (Jews and Gentiles) are blessed in Jesus by turning away from sin (v. 26).

This was a powerful sermon that did more than inform people about Christ, it called for obedience to Him.

4 Ignorance did not excuse or exempt them from sin. They still had to repent of their wrong (v. 19).

5 Thus, baptism is the point at which conversion takes place. It is then that one receives the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

6 A reference to salvation as a gift from the Spirit (Acts 2:38).

7 This is the second coming.

8 The context helps us understand the "restoration of all things". It was foretold by the prophets (v. 21). The prophets foretold of "these days" (v. 24) in which all nations would be blessed (v. 25) by men turning from their iniquities (v. 26).

9 Hearing involves more than listening. It includes obedience.

Questions

1. What do we know about the man who was healed that proves that an obvious miracle was performed? _____

2. List four things this chapter states about the nature of true miracles. _____

3. What did the man do when he was healed? _____

4. How did the miracles lead into a sermon on Christ? _____

5. What were the three points of Peter's sermon? _____

6. What evidence is given of the resurrection of Christ in this sermon? _____

7. How would you answer the idea that ignorance excuses our actions? _____

8. What does "be converted" (v. 19) mean? _____

9. What is the "refreshing from the presence of the Lord" (v. 19)? _____

10. What is the "restoration of all things" (v. 21)? _____

