

The Book of Acts
Chapter 3

Acts 3:6-8

6 Then Peter said, 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.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

I. Review

1. Lessons 1 and 2 were on Acts chapter 1 and 2.

2. In lesson 1:

- a. Introduced the book: the author: Luke; the date of writing: around 65AD; written to Theophilus on the theme of the history of the church; key word is “witness.” Acts has 2 sections: Section 1 is Acts Chapters 1-12 focuses on Jerusalem and the ministry of Peter; Section 2 is Chapters 13-28 focusing on places outside of Jerusalem and the ministry of Paul.
- b. Chapter 1 began with “infallible proofs” that Jesus was raised from the dead, and Him telling the disciples to go to Jerusalem to wait for the promise of the Father.
- c. They watched Jesus ascend into heaven and angels promised He’d return in like manner.
- d. Then they went to Jerusalem, selected Mathias to replace Judas, and got down to the business of praying and tarrying for the Promise of the Father.

3. Chapter 2:

- a. Began with the arrival of the Feast of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Ghost as those filled spoke with other tongues. This was noised abroad which caused a large crowd of festival goers to gather.
- b. Peter preached the gospel, speaking clearly of Jesus death for our sins, but that He also rose from the dead. Peter used prophecies of Joel and David to show how Jesus’ resurrection was foretold as was the outpouring of the Spirit.
- c. And to the hungry souls who asked how they should respond to this gospel message, Peter told them to repent, be baptized in Jesus’ name, and be filled with the Spirit.
- d. 3,000 people obey the gospel and were baptized, and the church was born in Holy Ghost power.

II. Acts Chapter 3

1. **Question 1:** What miracle is recorded in chapter three?

III. The Lame Man Healed (Verses 1-11)

A. The apostle’s routine is broken

1. Peter and John were doing what they always did—observing the daily prayer hour when they went to the temple to pray at the ninth hour (3:00 p.m.).
2. **Question 2:** What routine practice were Peter and John observing when this opportunity for service was presented to them?

3. They saw a lame man begging by the gate Beautiful, which they had probably seen him plenty of times before this day.
4. And it is likely that Jesus, who had also passed through this gate many times, had also seen him there before. But today was his day.
5. They approached to go pray but probably had not thought about praying for this man.
6. But being recently filled with the Holy Ghost, they were learning what it meant to be led by the Spirit:
Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
7. This is what is meant by being instant in season and out of season:
2 Tim 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
8. We also must learn to be sensitive to the Spirit because any time and any place, we may need to minister to a hungry and needy soul.
9. We don't want to miss any opportunities that God opens to reach a lost soul.
10. Like in Acts 9, when a humble man named Ananias was sensitive to the Spirit and went and ministered to a broken and blind man whom God was dealing with, that poor soul, Saul of Tarsus.
11. Thank God Ananias, although initially refusing to obey, eventually did, and reached out to that broken soul.
12. And Peter and John, on this day, were led of God's Spirit and laid aside their usual routine to see God do a most amazing miracle that had an amazing impact on the growth of the church.

B. The beggar's routine is broken

1. **Question 3:** Describe the healing of the lame man.
2. As they were about to enter through the gate Beautiful into the temple courts, the lame man asked alms of them just as he did of everyone else who passed by.
3. But on this occasion, by the Holy Ghost prompting, they saw him not merely as a beggar, but as soul in crisis needing Jesus, his Savior.
4. In Acts 4:22 we learn this man was more than 40 years old, and in his mechanical routine of begging, he had gotten to the point of hardly even looking up at the hundreds of people passing by.
5. So Peter sought the man's attention.
Acts 3:4-5
4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.
5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.
6. So he looked up at Peter and John, expecting to receive a coin.
7. The apostles had neither silver nor gold with them, but they did have what this man needed even more than money.
8. Lesson for us: we tend to focus on what we lack and not give what we have in abundance.

C. Step of faith

1. But they had the faith and anointing as the Lord's representative, to give what was needed most:
Acts 3:6-7

6 Then Peter said, 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.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

2. Perhaps the man did not initially have faith to attempt to stand on his own, but as Peter grabbed his hand and lifted him, he found strength in his feet and ankles, legs, back, all at once.
 3. Immediately he stood, walked, and leaped for joy!
Acts 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.
 4. This was a fulfillment of a prophecy of Isaiah about the works of God the Messiah would make possible:
Isa 35:4-6
*4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, **your God will come** with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come **and save you.***
5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
*6 Then shall **the lame man leap as an hart**, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.*
 5. There into this man's desert, flowed a life-giving stream, and with a leap of joy, his testimony was seen by all.
 6. For more than forty years, this man had never walked, but now, he would no longer need to be carried to sit at the gate of the temple and beg for his living.
 7. The very wonder of this instantaneous miracle overwhelmed him.
 8. Whether ours is a physically debilitating condition, or a broken spiritual condition, there is power in Jesus to be delivered, and mercy for us:
Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
 9. *1 Peter 2:9-10*
9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.
 10. Mercy and miracles await all who are broken.
- D. Can't hide a miracle
1. And a beautiful thing about notable miracles like this lame man running through temple, or your life that is miraculously changed, is that people cannot deny or explained it away.
 2. The lame beggar was well known to the people of Jerusalem. He had sat beside the gate begging for many years.
 3. And when they saw him walking and leaping and praising God, they were astonished and excited.
Acts 3:9-11
9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:
10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

4. The news of this phenomenon spread rapidly through the city, and soon great crowds of people gathered to see what was taking place.
5. **Question 4:** What effect did this miracle have upon the people?
6. And they were amazed to see the man whom they knew to have been lame all his life now standing with Peter and John in Solomon's porch.
7. Physical healing is truly miraculous, but that miracle can also be a symbol of how He wants to spiritually heal our souls.
8. While it is true that medical professionals can often patch up diseased and broken bodies, what they cannot do is make a man or woman whole.
9. Only God can do that.
10. And psychology, psychiatry, philosophy, or for that matter, religion or theology, cannot patch up the broken souls and minds of people.
11. Only by the means of the Holy Ghost Spirit, can a person be recreated into a new creature in Christ.
12. **Question 5:** How is the miracle of divine healing a symbol of the spiritual healing of the soul?

IV. Peter's Second Sermon (Verses 12-26)

- A. Not by human power
 1. The miracle of the healing of the lame man was the occasion for Peter's second recorded sermon in Acts.
 2. It started this way:
Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?
 3. God often will capture the attention of people through a demonstration of His miraculous works.
 4. God's promises are not merely pleasant-sounding words, they are backed up by the power of the Holy Ghost.
 5. And when people see a demonstration of the Holy Ghost, that creates a hunger and stirs up their faith that God can do something for them as well.
 6. And in later years when the Apostle Paul, preached, he said it wasn't with flattering or enticing words that he ministered, but in the demonstration of the Holy Ghost:
1 Cor 2:1-5
2 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.
2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.
4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:
5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

7. We have seen God do miraculous things in the lives of people, and God is not done doing miracles in lives. And that is so that your faith will not stand in us, but in God.
- B. But the power of Jesus
1. So when the lame man made such a public display of his miracle and the curious crowd gathered, Peter took full advantage of this miracle of healing to preach the gospel of Jesus to the wondering multitude.
 2. **Question 6:** How was the healing of the lame man the occasion for Peter's second sermon? What was the theme of this second sermon?
 3. There was an undeniable miracle happening right before their eyes, but Peter tried to draw their attention away from them:
*Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or **why look ye so earnestly on us**, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?*
 4. That is the attitude of a humble worker of God—to deflect glory from us, and point to God's redeeming power.
 5. Peter made it very plain that he and John had not healed the man but were only instruments through whom God worked.
 6. We need the spirit of John the Baptist who said,
John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.
- C. And the gospel message
1. Peter used the opportunity to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and preach His gospel of salvation.
 2. In fact, every sermon recorded in Acts includes this same theme: Jesus' death as a sacrifice for sin, His burial and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-4).
 3. **Question 7:** With what sin did he indict the Jews, and what hope did he hold out to them?
 4. Here is how Peter addressed the amazed crowd:
Acts 3:13-15
*13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom **ye delivered up**, and **denied** him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.*
*14 But ye **denied** the Holy One and the Just, and **desired a murderer** to be granted unto you;*
*15 And **killed** the Prince of life, whom **God hath raised** from the dead; whereof **we are witnesses**.*
 5. This was still a recent and divisive memory in the minds of the crowd. It is likely that many of those Peter was addressing that day had been in the crowd, that, a short few months earlier, had demanded Jesus' crucifixion.
 6. There had been just such a crowd standing before the Pilate, the Roman governor, as Pilate sought to release Him.
 7. But instead, by the priest's encouragement, they had chosen to release of Barabbas a murderer (Mark 15:7-15; Luke 23:13-25), instead of Jesus.
 8. Peter boldly told those same people **they had killed the Prince of life**. That is a very similar to the message he had preached in Acts 2.
 9. But God had raised Him up from the dead and Peter confirmed that he was a witness to these things.

10. And it was through this living Jesus that the lame man had been completely healed.
Acts 3:16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.
 11. But after clearly pointing to their guilt in demanding Jesus' death, he then opened to them the door of repentance through the message of the gospel of Jesus.
Acts 3:17-20, 26
17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.
18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.
19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;
20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:
26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.
 12. By **repentance**, Peter said they could obtain **mercy** from God, **forgiveness** of sins, and the refreshing presence of the **Holy Ghost**.
 13. God used the traitorous act of Judas, the unbelief and rebellion of the Jews, and the weakness of Pilate to fulfill His eternal plan of salvation for men through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ.
- D. As the prophets foretold
1. Peter again turned their attention to the Old Testament prophets, from Moses to Samuel, to those that followed, who all foretold what was happening.
 2. The Old Testament prophets revealed also that the salvation provided for men through Christ would be offered to the whole world.
Acts 3:25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.
 3. Peter was pointing to the promise in Genesis that they were very familiar with:
Gen 12:1-3
12 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:
2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
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.
 4. He took the scriptures they were all familiar with and showed them how recent events involving Jesus' crucifixion were a fulfillment of those scriptures.
 5. The gospel of John described it this way:
John 1:10-11
10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
 6. Jesus made possible eternal life through the way of faith to men of all nations.
- V. Questions (1-7)