



The Overcomers Christian Fellowship International
Plymouth, United Kingdom

"...greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world" / John 4:4
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MONDAY BIBLE STUDY

DATE:26/01/15. "ACTS OF THE APOSTLES" CHAPTER THREE.

MEMORY VERSE: Acts 3:19.

"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".

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- (1) To study the healing of the lame man, noting various aspects of the Miracle.
- (2) To examine Peter's second gospel sermon, his call to repent and the blessings to follow.

OUTLINE

I. THE HEALING OF THE LAME MAN (1-10)

God acts in power to confirm the ministry of the apostles and the authority of His Son. It is a miracle motivated by compassion.

A. THE MIRACLE AT THE TEMPLE GATE (1-8)

1. Peter and John go to the temple
 - a. At the hour of prayer
 - b. Which was the ninth hour (3 p.m.)
2. The lame man at the temple gate called Beautiful
 - a. Lame from his mother's womb
 - b. Carried daily to the gate to ask for alms
 - c. Seeing Peter and John, asks them for alms
3. Peter heals the lame man
 - a. They fix their eyes on the man, and Peter tells him to look at them.
 - b. The man gives them his attention, expecting to receive something.
 - c. Peter has no gold or silver, but gives what he has
 - 1) He commands the lame man in the name of Jesus to rise up and walk.
 - 2) He takes him by the right hand and lifts him up.
 - d. Immediately his feet and ankle bones receive strength
 - (1) Leaping up, the man stands and walks
 - (2) He enters the temple with Peter and John
 - (3) He is walking, leaping, and praising God

B. THE RESPONSE OF THE CROWD (9-10)

1. The people see the lame man walking and praising God
2. The people know him as the one who begged alms at the Beautiful Gate
3. They are filled with wonder and amazement at what happened
4. As the lame man holds on to Peter and John, the people run to them in Solomon's Porch.

Questions:

- (a) Peter and John had no money, but they were used to heal this sick man. Do you think there is a connection between these two (i.e. poverty and power)? How does it apply to us today?
- (b) The miracle is both quick and complete. Why do you think that healing like this is so rare today? Is God somehow restricted?

II. PETER'S SECOND SERMON (11-26)

Peter takes the opportunity of the healing miracle to preach an evangelistic message.

A. THE MIRACLE EXPLAINED AS FAITH IN THE NAME OF JESUS (11-16)

Question: What was the beggar's understandable fear of clinging to John and Peter that attracted the crowd?

1. Peter questions why the crowd marvelled
 - a. Why look at Peter and John so intently?
 - b. As though by their own power or godliness they made the man walk?
2. God has glorified His Son Jesus
 - a. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of their fathers has glorified Jesus
 - 1) Whom they delivered up and denied
 - a) In the presence of Pilate
 - b) When he was determined to let Him go.
 - 2) The Holy One and the Just
 - a) Whom they denied
 - b) And asked for a murderer to be granted to them
 - 3) The Prince of life
 - a) Whom God raised up
 - b) Of which Peter and John are witnesses
3. It was through faith in His name that made the man strong
 - a. A man whom they see and know
 - b. Faith which comes through Jesus has given him perfect soundness in their presence.

It is the faith of John and Peter and not the faith of the crippled man that healed this man. The crowd themselves were the best evidence for this miracle; it was not a hoax.

NOTE:VV.13-15...We are often far too afraid of causing offence or upsetting people with a raw, unpackaged presentation of gospel truth like Peter's message in these verses. **Why is this common among Pastors and preachers in the Churches today?. We must pray for a holy boldness!**

B. THE CALL TO REPENT AND BE CONVERTED (17-26)

1. Peter knows they and their rulers crucified Christ in their Ignorance which is no excuse (Lev.5:17).
 - a. Those things God foretold by the mouth of His prophets
 - b. How Christ would suffer, God has fulfilled
2. Peter commands them to repent and be converted
 - a. That their sins may be blotted out
 - b. That times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord
 - c. That God might send Jesus Christ
 - 1) Who was preached to them before
 - 2) Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things
 - a) Which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets
 - b) Since the world began
3. Even as Moses warned the fathers (**Deut.18:15,18-19**)
 - a. That God would raise up for them a Prophet from their brethren
 - b. Whom they should hear in all things, whatever He says
 - c. Those who will not hear that Prophet will be utterly destroyed from among the people
 - d. As all the prophets foretold these days, from Samuel and

- those who followed
4. They are the sons of the prophets, of the covenant God made with their fathers
 - a. Saying to Abraham, "And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed"
 - b. To them first, God sent His Servant Jesus to bless them
 - 1) Having raised Him up
 - 2) To turn every one of them from their iniquities.

Repentance is still the key to unlocking the blessings of God. Without genuine repentance and total brokenness, it would be very difficult to experience all that God has for us. The powerlessness of some churchgoers is directly related to the absence of genuine repentance.

Questions:

- (1) In what ways is repentance more than simply "being sorry"?
- (2) How many titles or descriptions of God's Son can you find in this passage? What do they mean?
- (3) Jesus came to the Jews first. Do we have a responsibility to continue to evangelize the Jews? Why have Jews and Christians had a history of distrust?

SUMMARY

The chapter opens with Peter and John going to the temple where they encounter a man lame from birth begging for alms at the gate called Beautiful. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Peter commands him to rise up and walk. Taking the lame man by the right hand and lifting him up, the man is healed instantly and completely. Walking, leaping, and praising God, he accompanies Peter and John into the temple to the wonder and amazement of the crowd (1-10).

On Solomon's porch, Peter explains that the healing occurred by faith in the name of Jesus. God has glorified His Servant Jesus, the Holy One and the Just, the Prince of life, whom they denied and killed, but whom God raised from the dead as witnessed by Peter and John. While their crimes were done in ignorance, even foretold and fulfilled by God, they are commanded to repent and turn to God. Those that do are promised to have their sins blotted out and experience other blessings from Jesus who will remain in heaven until the times of restoration of all things. Those who do not heed Jesus will be utterly destroyed as foretold by Moses (Deut.18:15,18-19). As sons of the prophets, and of the covenant God made with Abraham to bless all families through his seed (Gen.22:18) to them first God has sent Jesus to bless them in turning them away from their iniquities (11-26).

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS ONLY TO HANDLE.

PRAYER POINTS:

- (1) Oh Lord my Father, if my life is on the wrong course, correct me, in the name of Jesus.
- (2) I reject every covenant of sickness made by the living or dead against my life in Jesus name.
- (3) Power to do exploits for God, fall upon me after the order of Peter and John at the beautiful gate in Jesus name.

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR ACTS OF APOSTLES CHAPTER THREE (FOR TEACHERS ONLY)

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?
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- 2) When did Peter and John go up to the temple? (1)
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- 3) What was the name of the gate of the temple where the lame man begged for alms? (2)
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- 4) When Peter and John spoke to the lame man, what was he expecting? (3-5)
- 5) As Peter prepared to heal the lame man, what did he say? What did Peter then do? (6-7)
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- 6) How soon was the lame man healed? How did the lame man respond? (7-8)
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- 7) Who saw the lame man walking in the temple? What was their reaction? (9-10)
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- 8) Where did the crowd gather in the temple area? (11)
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- 9) What did Peter first deny? (12)
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- 10) What had God done through this miracle? (13)
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- 11) Of what did Peter accuse of the crowd concerning Jesus? (13-15)
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- 12) What did Peter then proclaim regarding Jesus? What evidence does he provide? (15)
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- 13) To what does Peter attribute the healing of the lame man? (16)
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- 14) What does Peter say regarding their guilt? What else about their actions? (17-18)
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- 15) What two commands does Peter give to the people? (19)
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- 16) What three blessings are extended to those who obey? (19-20)
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- 17) How long must Christ remain in heaven? As described by whom? (21)
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- 18) What did Moses promise to the fathers? What did he also warn them? (22-23)
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- 19) Who else foretold of these days? (24)

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20) How did Peter describe his audience? (25)

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21) What promise did God make to Abraham? (25)

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22) How was God seeking to bless the people? (26)

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