

O Friends, don't get me wrong. By no means do I count myself as an expert in all of this, but I've got my eyes on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

Philippians 3:13-14 THE MESSAGE BIBLE

First Love Ministries, Inc.

Prayer Study #231

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Chapter 3

Peter and John Heal the Lame Man

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;
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."
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."
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.
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.

This first recorded miracle of healing in the Book of Acts is one of my favorite healing stories because of the reaction of the man healed. The healing is significant for many reasons, among them being that this occurred at the Temple after Jesus had cleansed the temple, after the priests had seen His wonderful ministry both in teaching and miracles, after God had rent the Veil of the Temple in two at the crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27:51), and after Jesus had risen and been seen by many and then ascended into heaven,

and most importantly after Pentecost. (But the priests and most of the people rejected all these testimonies of Jesus.) Thus, the Healer had gone home, and He had sent the Comforter or Holy Spirit, and this was an act of the Holy Spirit working through Peter and John. Since the priests had rejected all the acts and signs of Jesus concerning the Temple, God the Father allowed the Temple to be destroyed some years later in AD 70 by the Romans.

Something very significant to me about this healing is the fact that the lame man did not ask for healing and apparently had no faith for it. Sometimes the Lord heals because the sick person has the faith for healing. Sometimes the Lord heals because the person ministering has the faith, and sometimes the Lord just does a sovereign work where there seems to be no agent of faith, except the Holy Spirit. In this case, the Holy Spirit healed because of the faith of Peter and John, both empowered by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Apparently the man, who obviously could not work, had been put in this place for many years to beg. This means that Jesus no doubt came in contact with the man since Jesus frequently went to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Another interesting fact about this encounter is Peter's response to the begging man: "*Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have giveth thee.*" Every televangelist and every Laodicean Church should take note of this. It is not by financial prosperity that we should judge ministries or churches. Peter and John was not financial prosperous, but they had the power of God. When we get so caught up in the financial aspects of ministry, we often lose the power of God. As Kevin Conner notes, "Peter did not tell the Lame man to 'attend a few meetings, keep on believing, wait until he received faith, and continue to pray and look to the Lord,' etc." We most probably live in the Laodicean age, and the Laodicean Church was rich and had need of nothing. Yet they also are the Church that has a form of godliness but denies the power (2nd Timothy 3:5).

Peter performs this miracle in the only name that brings true healing, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, although let us quickly note that Satan and his forces do false signs and wonders to try to deceive believers (*For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, inasmuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.* Matthew 24:24). Think of all the things that can be done in the Name of Jesus: It brings joy to the believer (Psalm 5:11); It is our defense against our enemies (Psalm 44:5); It gives us our inheritance from the Lord (Psalm 61:5); It causes us to dwell in Zion (Psalm 69:35-36); It purges us from sin (Psalm 79:9); It brings deliverance (Psalm 79:9); It expedites an answer from the

Lord (Psalm 99:6); It blesses those who come in His name (Psalm 118:26a); It helps us keep His law (Psalm 119:55); It brings the Lord's mercy (Psalm 119:132); It helps the believer in times of trouble (Psalm 124:8); it casts out demons (Mark 16:17); and, in this particular passage of scripture (Acts 3:6) it brings healing.

The man did not have to be coached nor was he embarrassed. He went *walking and leaping and praising God*. His actions were a testimony that this was indeed a miracle, and he was smarter than many of us. He recognized this blessing as being from God, not men, and he was full of praise for what the Lord had done. All of this was done publically before the people and was a great witness to the power of Jesus Christ.

We have covered this in previous lessons, but again, let me remind you that Jesus in the New Testament is the Jehovah in the Old Testament. His compound names give us a clue into His ways and His character: **Jehovah-Elohim**-the Self-existent One, the eternal being (Genesis 2:4-5); **Adonai-Jehovah**-the Lord, our Sovereign Master (Genesis 15:2,8); **Jehovah-Jireh**-the Lord, our Provider (Genesis 22:8-14); **Jehovah-Rophe**-the Lord, our Healer (Exodus 15:26); **Jehovah-Nissi**-the Lord, our Banner or Victor (Exodus 17:15); **Jehovah-M'Kaddesh**-the Lord, our Sanctifier (Leviticus 20:8); **Jehovah-Shalom**-the Lord, our Peace (Judges 6:24); **Jehovah-Tsidkenu**-the Lord,our Righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6); **Jehovah-Sabaoth**-the Lord of Hosts (1st Samuel 1:3); **Jehovah-Shammah**-the Lord, ever present (Ezekiel 48:35); and **Jehovah-Rohi**-the Lord, my Shepherd (Psalm 23:1).

Peter's Second Sermon

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 mad this man walk?"
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.
16. "And this 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.

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

The sign of speaking in tongues was the basis of Peter's first sermon in Acts 2. The sign of healing of the lame man was the basis for this sermon in Acts 3. I love the way that Peter starts this sermon off in verse 12. He states a very important truth that every minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ must recognize. The miracle was not by what he could do nor by what he was. The miracle came only by the power of the Holy Spirit activated by his faith. It was by the power and holiness of the Risen Christ.

Have you ever wondered why God refers to Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? These men are types or symbols of the triune God. Kevin Conner tell us, "Abraham typifies the Father God, the foundation, the source, the beginning, the Covenant-holder, the source of the promises of salvation, the Father of all who believe. Isaac typifies the Only Begotten Son of God, born as a result of a miracle and typically sacrificed and resurrected (Hebrews 11:17). He becomes a magnificent type of the New Testament Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ (Genesis 22). He also was born as the result of a miracle, and then in due time, was actually sacrificed and resurrected. Jacob typifies the Holy Spirit. Jacob was the third person

of this trinity of men, who proceeded from the Father Abraham, through the Begotten Son. He is the first one to anoint the rock (Bethel) with oil (Genesis 28:18). This Name, 'The God of Abraham, Isaac and of Jacob' is a Triune Name of Triune Title. It is the Old Testament type of that Triune Name as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ. In Him dwells all the Fullness of the Godhead BODILY (Colossians 1:19. 2:9)."

William Barclay says that most of the early preachers followed three dominant themes, all of which are illustrated in Peter's sermon. First, they stress that the crucifixion was the most shameful act in history. Secondly, they tell the people that without the crucifixion there would be no Church and through the crucifixion Jesus proved that He was the Lord of life and death and with Him was the power of God which nothing and no one could stop. Thirdly, they stressed the power of the risen Lord. They saw themselves as mere channels who really had no power, but they represented Jesus who had unlimited power.

Peter begins his message with a blunt reminder that they denied and killed Jesus. But he also tells them that they and even their rulers did what they did in ignorance. Jesus had now risen from the dead so they no longer could use the excuse of ignorance but must repent and be converted. As in his first sermon, Peter uses the Old Testament extensively to show that the coming of the Messiah was foretold and the Jesus fulfilled all the requirements of the prophets to be the Messiah. The Father sent the Messiah to the Jews first to bless them with the promise that their sins would be forgiven if they accepted Jesus.

When He Was On the Cross, I Was On His Mind

**I'm not on an ego trip
I'm nothing on my own
I made mistakes
I often slip
Just common flesh and bones
But I'll prove someday just why I say
I'm of a special kind
For when He was on the cross
I was on His mind.**

**The look of love was on His face
Thorns were on His head
The blood was on His scarlet robe
Stained a crimson red
Though His eyes were on the crowd that day
He looked ahead in time
For when He was on the cross
I was on His mind**

CHORUS

**He knew me, yet He loved me
He whose glory makes the heavens shine
So unworthy of such mercy
Yet when He was on the cross
I was on His mind**

**Yet when He was on the cross
I was on His mind**