

Acts Chapter 3

B. The lame man healed, 3:1-26

1. The miracle, 3:1-10

Acts 3:1 *Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth {hour,} the hour of prayer.*

“Peter and John were going up to the temple”

1. The Apostles went where the crowd was--synagogues.
2. Nowhere does the NT state that this was required of them as Christians. They did not have to go. They were no longer under the old law.

Col. 2:13-17

Eph. 2:13-16

Acts 3:2 *And a certain man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.*

“And a certain man”

Notice some things about this man

1. He had never walked. He was from his mothers womb.
2. People knew this about him. Every day he was set at the gate.

Acts 3:3 *And when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he {began} asking to receive alms.*

“he {began} asking to receive alms”

Many will want to say that it takes faith for someone to be healed. But notice what the lame man was seeking. It wasn't to be healed. He was not even aware of the power that Peter and John had. He simply wanted money

Acts 3:4 *And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, “Look at us!”*

Acts 3:5 And he {began} to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

“expecting to receive something from them”

The beggar assumed he was going to get what he had asked for.

Acts 3:6 But Peter said, “I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene —walk!”

“I do not possess silver and gold”

Peter makes it clear that he did not have what the man was seeking.

“In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene”

At the giving of this healing Peter makes the claim that it is by the authority of Jesus.

Acts 3:7 And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

“And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up”

1. It is very possible that the lame man still did not believe.
2. Peter seized him by the arm and raised him up.

“and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened”

1. It is here that the healing takes place.
2. When Peter touches the lame man his feet and ankles are strengthened.

Acts 3:8 And with a leap, he stood upright and {began} to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

“And with a leap, he stood upright and {began} to walk”

It must have been at this point that the lame man realized what had happened.

1. At first Peter seized him and raised him up
2. But here the lame man takes control and with a leap stood upright and began to walk.

“and he entered the temple with them”

1. Here the purpose of the healing is revealed.
2. It wasn't just so he could walk, but to confirm Jesus as Lord, John 20:30,31

“walking and leaping and praising God”

1. Also notice that this was a complete healing.
2. It was not something that took place over time.
3. He did not need to be trained in how to walk.

Acts 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God;

“And all the people saw him walking”

Again, a physical act seen by the people to create belief, Acts 8:6,7

Acts 3:10 and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to {beg} alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

The people understood who this man was. Because they understood what had happened to him they were filled with wonder and amazement.

2. Peter's second sermon at the portico of Solomon, 3:11-26

Acts 3:11 And while he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement.

“all the people ran together to them”

This shows their amazement and desire to know what had happened.

“at the so-called portico of Solomon”

Where people gathered after prayer and shelter. East side of the Temple

Acts 3:12 . . . But when Peter saw {this} , he replied to the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?

“Men of Israel”

Honorable title, respectful address

“why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?”

Peter makes certain the glory goes to whom it is due.

Heads Up! Peter is going to make three points in this section of His sermon.

1. The Miracle was the work of God to glorify Jesus.
2. The Jews denied Jesus from ignorance but he fulfilled the prophecy.
3. They should repent and be saved by the gospel.

Acts 3:13 . . . “The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, {the one} whom you delivered up, and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.

“The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers”

1. Peter begins by using a phrase that the people will reverence.
2. This is the same phrase God spoke to Moses, Ex. 3:6.
3. If we consider that God raised Jesus from the dead this ties with Matt. 22:31-32

“has glorified His servant Jesus”

1. Glorified, John 17:5
2. His Servant, Isa. 42:1; 52:13 (Phil. 2:6-8)

“and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him”

Jesus had a fair trial he was acquitted. The Jews refused to accept this. They became a

“Lynch Mob,” Matt. 27:11-26; Mk. 15:1-14.

Acts 3:14 . . . “But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

“But you disowned”

1. ἠρνησασθε from ἀρνεομαι, to say no, to reject, to deny

2. The Jews rejected Jesus like they did Moses, Acts 7:35

“ the Holy and Righteous One”

1. The Holy One,
 - a. This phrase is in reference to the Messiah, Psalm 16:10
 - b. Mk. 1:24; Lk. 4:34; 1John 2:20; Rev. 3:7

2. Righteous one, Acts 7:52; 22:14

“and asked for a murderer to be granted to you”

Luke. 23:18-25

Acts 3:15 . . . but put to death the Prince of life, {the one} whom God raised from the dead, {a fact} to which we are witnesses.

“but put to death the Prince of life, {the one} whom God raised from the dead”

Heads Up! Notice the contrast that Peter gives the Jews.

1. 3:13, You disowned Jesus, God glorified (You said no, God said yes).

2. 3:15, You killed Jesus, God raised Him up.

3. Jesus is the son of God. he is the one sent to save us, John 3:16. It didn't matter what plan the Jews had God's plan was going to succeed.

“{a fact} to which we are witnesses”

Acts 1:3; 1Cor. 15:3-8

Acts 3:16 -- “And on the basis of faith in His name, {it is} the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which {comes} through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

“And on the basis of faith in His name”

This has two possible interpretations.

1. The faith of Peter, Mk. 16:17
2. The faith of the lame man. This is based upon 3:6 would be consistent with other passages similar to this, Matt. 8:8-10; Matt. 9:20-22.

Note: It leaves us with no problem if we agree with the later, because of what Paul write in 1Cor. 13:8-13.

“{it is} the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man”

By His authority, His power

“has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all”

This is a medical term and is only found here in the NT.

It means perfect soundness

Acts 3:17 “And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.

“And now, brethren”

Peter again approaches them in a respectful manner.

“I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also”

This is a way of getting the people to heed the message without ruffling feathers.

They just followed the path of their rulers.

Luke 23:34; Acts 17:30; Hebrew 9:7; 1 Peter 1:14

Note: Paul spoke of his actions in this way, 1 Tim. 1:13

Acts 3:18 ...“But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled.”

“But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets”

Here is there second way out. It was God’s plan and these things had to happen.

Their crime, though real, was carrying out God’ purpose.

“that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled”

Luke 24:44

Note: As we are going to see in the next verse, their ignorance and God’s plan did not excuse them from what they had done. They still need to repent. Ignorance might make the situation more bearable but it is no excuse for what was done. It’s still wrong.

Acts 3:19 “Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;”

“Repent therefore and return”

Repent, They need to turn from rejecting God’s chosen one, their Messiah.

Return, Be converted.

“that your sins may be wiped away”

Rubbed off, erased, smeared out

“in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord”

1. Some believe this can be referring to the coming of the Holy Spirit.
2. Others believe that this is referring to Christ’ second coming based on vs. 20,21
 - v. 20, “that He may send Jesus”
 - v.21, “whom heaven must receive until {the} period of restoration of all things about”

Acts 3:20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,

1John 3:1-3

Heads Up! Many see a parallel to Acts 2:38

Repent = Repent

Return (be converted) = Be baptized

Sins wiped away = Forgiveness of sins

Times of refreshing = Gift of the Holy Spirit

Acts 3:21 .whom heaven must receive until {the} period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

“whom heaven must receive”

This is where God’s Servant now resides, Luke 24:51. A testimony to His resurrection and Gods approval of him as His servant.

“until {the} period of restoration of all things”

1. Restoration / αποκατασταση / apokatastaseos. Used only here in the NT and seems to be a medical term, and means complete restoration to health.

2. This is an interesting phrase to use considering the lame man was just healed. There is yet another complete healing that is to come, Matt 19:28-30.

“which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time”

1. Here Peter again affirms that Jesus was the Christ whom God appointed, this being attested to by the prophets of old.

2. The scope of the prophecies included both the first and second coming of the Christ and therefore the period known as the “restoration” of all things covers all of this, Luke 1:67-80.

3. In Luke 1:67ff, Zacharias quotes from numerous prophets.
Psalm 111:9; Jer. 25:5,6; 30:10; Daniel 9:24-26.

Acts 3:22 *“Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED in everything He says to you.’*

“Moses said”

1. This is a quote from Deut 18:15-19
2. The Jews were well aware of a coming prophet like unto Moses, John 1:19-21. Thus they were to give heed to him when he came.

“TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED in everything He says to you.”

Just as the children of Israel were to obey Moses, their deliverer, lawgiver, ruler, their leader, so the people now are to obey Christ as He is their Deliverer from sin, their lawgiver, their leader, their king, and prophet, because God raised Him up. He is God’s prophet.

Acts 3:23 *.. ‘And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’*

“And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet”

Since Jesus is the prophet raised up by God as foretold by Moses, the Jews could not obey Moses without obeying Christ, John 5:46.

“shall be utterly destroyed from among the people”

1. There was a penalty to be paid by a Jew who would not follow Moses.
Ex. 12:15,19; 22:20; Num. 19:13.
2. Likewise there is a penalty to be paid for those who will not follow God’s prophet, Jesus.

3. In the NT the utterly destroyed face a similar but greater fate.

John 3:18; Matt. 8:12; 2Thess. 1:9

Acts 3:24 *“And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and {his} successors onward, also announced these days.”*

“And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken”

1. The Jews were well aware the coming of God’s prophet.

2. If the people Peter is speaking to rejects Jesus as the Christ then they reject the prophets that spoke these things concerning Him.

Acts 3:25 *“It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’”*

“It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers”

Not that they are literal sons, but that they share in the inheritance spoken of by the prophets.

‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’

1. This is in reference to the promise first made to Abraham; Gen 12:3; 18:18; 22:18

2. And later to Isaac and Jacob; Gen. 26:4; 28:14

3. The prophet spoken of had arisen and now the blessings were now theirs.

Acts 3:26 *“For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one {of you} from your wicked ways.”*

“For you first”

As stated earlier the promise was to all nations, but here we see that it was sent to the Jews first. Acts 1:8; Luke 24:47; Rom 1:16, 2:10

“God raised up His Servant”

1. We have seen this expression “raised up” several times. It must be noted that this is not always in reference to Jesus’ resurrection.
2. Here, as in 3:22, it is in reference to one who is appointed, i.e. Jesus the appointed prophet of God.
3. Peter again states that Jesus is the Servant of God, 3:13. He was the prophet sent to do God’s will this is in line with, Isa. 42:1; Matt. 12:48

“and sent Him to bless you by turning every one {of you} from your wicked ways.”

1. God’s servant would bless the people.
2. This would be done through their turning from their wicked ways, repentance
Acts 5:31

Note: In this section Peter presented a three fold testimony concerning the Christ

1. He is the power by which all miracles are worked, vs. 12-17
2. He is the redeemer of all souls vs. 18-21
3. He is the fulfillment of all the prophecies vs. 22-26