

Acts 3 – Miracles and Opposition – Part 1
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I. Healing of the Lame Man – Vs 1-10

A. The Lame Man Miracle

1. Lame from **BIRTH** and **CARRIED DAILY** to **Beautiful Gate** daily
2. Was **more than 45 years old** (**Acts 4:22**)
3. **Each day** would **BEG** for **ALMS**
 - a. **beg** – **ask** or **call out for** – like a child from a parent
 - b. **alms** – **charity** – original language actually means, **for the purpose of receiving charity**

The **PICTURE** of **ONE** who is **INNOCENT**, **HELPLESS** and **HOPELESS**

4. **POSITIONED** by the **GATE BEAUTIFUL**
 - a. **Beautiful** comes from a root word meaning, **right hour or timely season** and **happening or coming at the right time**
5. **Clearly** this was a **kairos** moment for **this man** as **Peter** and **John** made their way to the **temple** to pray
 - a. As they began to enter the **TEMPLE**, he began to **CALL OUT** for **CHARITY**
 - b. **And when Peter said to him, LOOK AT US, he GAVE THEM HIS ATTENTION EXPECTING TO RECEIVE SOMETHING FOM THEM**
6. Peter **fixed his gaze** upon the man
 - a. **fixed** – **fastened** – **a strong, intense gaze of INTENT**

Something **INTENTIONAL AROSE** within **PETER'S SPIRIT**

7. Then Peter **SPOKE**, **I do not possess silver and gold, but WHAT I DO HAVE** (present or at hand and to come into existence) **I GIVE to you**

*In the NAME (onoma – authority and character) of Jesus Christ of Nazareth –
WALK!*

- a. He reached out with his **RIGHT HAND** and **LIFTED** him up
- b. **IMMEDIATELY** his feet and ankles were **STRENGTHENED** (*made strong*)
- c. He began to **WALK and LEAP** and those who saw him were filled with **WONDER AND AMAZEMENT** (*Ekstasis – ecstatic*)

B. Principles for MIRACLES in this ACCOUNT

1. Helplessness and Hopelessness – NOWHERE to TURN

- a. **Lame Man** had to be **CARRIED** wherever he went – **DEPENDENT** on the **GOODNESS** of **OTHERS**
- b. **NO MEANS** to **THRIVE** but only **SURVIVE** – at the **MERCY** of the **CHARITY** of **OTHERS** to **LIVE**

MIRACLES always seem to **COME** at the **POINT** of **GREATEST NEED** when we **FIND OURSELVES HELPLESSNESS** and **HOPELESSNESS CIRCUMSTANCES**

2. TIME and TIMING of God – Miracles are on Father's **TIMELINE**

- a. **Beautiful Gate** - *right hour or timely season* and *happening or coming at the right time*
- b. Jesus **WALKED** by this **GATE** before and likely **SAW** this **BEGGAR HIMSELF** – Why didn't Jesus heal him?

I **BELIEVE** there was a **PROPER TIMING** for the **SONS of GOD** to do the **WORKS** that **JESUS** said they would do.

*Eccl 3:1 There is an **APPOINTED TIME** for **EVERYTHING**. There is a **TIME** for every **EVENT** under heaven...*

***Appointed time – predestined time** – used only 4 times in OT (2 in **Esther** with set time for Feast of Purim / 1 in **Nehemiah** when sent to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem / 1 in **Ecclesiastes**)*

John 14:12 – Truly, truly I say to you, he who **BELIEVES** in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and **GREATER WORKS THAN THESE** shall HE DO, because I go to the Father

- c. **THIS MIRACLE** had a **PREDESTINED TIME RESERVED** for the **SONS of GOD** – *Peter and John* – to **PERFORM** the **FIRST FRUIT Post-Ascension MIRACLE** of **HEALING**
 - 1. **John** – **Mercy GIFT**
 - 2. **Peter** – **RESTORED** by **LOVE** and **FORGIVENESS**

Miracles are NOT for the ELITE FEW – It is for ALL of US who have been FORGIVEN and given the GIFT of SONSHIP

3. **HOLY SPIRIT LED**

- a. Peter and John **BOTH FASTENED** their **EYES** upon the man

Peter said, *Look on us!* With such **INTENTIONALITY** that the lame man immediately **ENGAGED**. This was NOT a **casual LOOK** – THIS was a **HOLY GHOST ENCOUNTER MOMENT!**

- b. **Clearly**, Holy Spirit **ORCHESTRATED** this **EVENT**
- c. The **HOLY SPIRIT** is **VERY INTENTIONAL**

4. **FAITH and AUTHORITY**

- a. Peter declared, *In the NAME of Jesus Christ the Nazarene – WALK!*

This was a **WORD** of **God's FAITH**

- b. Peter **REACHED DOWN** and **LIFTED** him up by the **RIGHT HAND** – *Remember, FAITH has an ACTION!*

The RIGHT HAND is the HAND of AUTHORITY – Jesus is SEATED at the RIGHT hand of the Father

- c. The **LAME MAN** also **EXHIBITED FAITH**

V 5 And he began to give them his attention, EXPECTING to RECEIVE SOMETHING from them

- 1. **Most surely**, he was **expecting MONEY**
- 2. **What he received** was **GREATER** than **MONEY**

With a LEAP, he STOOD UPRIGHT and began to WALK . . . LEAPING and praising God, and ALL THE PEOPLE SAW HIM WALKING AND PRAISING GOD

Ezekiel 37:4 – And He said to me, PROPHECY over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord, thus says the Lord God to these bones, Behold I will causer BREATH to enter you that you may come to LIFE.

Peter would say in V 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.*

5. **Wonder and Amazement**

Those who WITNESSED the MIRACLE were *filled with WONDER and AMAZEMENT at what had happened to him*

- a. They were **ECSTATIC** over this **INCREDIBLE MANIFESTATION** of God's **MIRACLE POWER**

Ecstatic - feeling or expressing overwhelming happiness or joyful excitement.

NOTHING BUILDS OUR FAITH MORE than a **BONAFIDE MIRACLE**

It ESCALATES our **FAITH** and **STIRS PASSION** for **MORE** of **GOD**

II. Peter's **SECOND** Sermon on Solomon's Porch

A. Peter **GIVES HONOR** to God

1. He issued the **DISCLAIMER** – **WE** didn't **DO THIS!!** **God** did!!!
2. He **DIVERTED** the honor from himself to Christ

Genesis 49:10 The scepter (Rod of Authority) shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's (Lawgiver's) staff from between his feet, until Shiloh (Messiah) comes and to HIM shall be the obedience of the peoples (flock, men)

B. God chooses Solomon's Porch for the **MESSAGE** of Jesus to be **DECLARED**

1. Jesus **WAS** and **IS** the **GREATER** than Solomon

Matthew 12:42 The Queen of the South shall rise up with this generation at the judgment and shall condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold a greater than Solomon is here.

2. Peter **SEIZED THE MOMENT** and declared the **greater wisdom of CHRIST** by **SOWING** the **MESSAGE** of the **KINGDOM** to the **MARVELING CROWD**

A. Read **VS 11-21**

B. Key Words

V 11 – Clinging – held onto – would not let go –NOT let go of the POWER SOURCE

V 12 – power and piety

1. **Power (Dunamis) – force / ability / might**
2. **Piety – godliness/ holiness / religious wherewithal / self-righteousness**

V 14 – Disowned – Denied (KJV) – rejected / renounced / chose to be apostate

V 16 – on the BASIS of faith in His name - Foundation / Cornerstone

V 16 – perfect health – perfect soundness / perfectly whole

V 19 – Repent and Return

1. **Repent– Change your MIND – RESET YOUR BRAIN and change your MINDSET**
2. **Return – Turn about or turn around**

V 19 - Times of Refreshing ...from the presence of the Lord

1. **Times – Kairos – God appointed times**
2. **Refreshing – recovery of breath – revival**
3. **Presence – Person – speaks of Personal Living Relationship**

Our TIMES of REFRESHING and REVIVING of our SPIRIT are GROUNDED in the PERSON of JESUS and our RELATIONSHIP with HIM

V 20 – Appointed – Chosen in advance on purpose

V 21 – Restoration of all things – the FUTURE KINGDOM with Christ as KING – Original Intent!

- C. Jesus **COMPARED** to **MOSES** and the Prophets
1. Jesus the **PROPHET** foretold by Moses (*Deut 18:15*)
 2. All are to **HEED HIS VOICE** lest we remain **LOST and DIE** in our sins
 3. To **THOSE** who **HEED**, we **BECOME COVENANT SONS** as the **SEED of ABRAHAM**
- D. Miracles are **RESERVED** for **ALL** the **SONS of GOD**, **NOT** the **SELECT FEW**

WHAT YOU PURSUE IS WHAT YOU WILL HAVE!

And IT BEGINS in the MINDSET!!