
Man - Acts Ch 2 was an INCREDiBLE Ch - wasn’t it ??

We left off in the last verse of Acts Ch 2 with these words

The Lord added to their number day by day
those who were being saved

What an incredible TIME this was - & what an incredible PICTURE of
BEING the CHURCH we saw in our last Msg

But now - as we start Acts Ch 3 - the First STORM of Persecution
is already going to HIT the N.T. Church

Here’s the outline for Acts Ch 3 & 4
MIRACLE → SERMON → PERSECUTION → RESPONSE

We’ll see a MIRACLE of Healing today
& then - From that MIRACLE - comes another Spirit-Filled SERMON

& then in the Next Msg we’ll see
the PERSECUTION that comes from the SERMON,
that comes from the MIRACLE

& finally we’ll see the RESPONSE
that comes from the PERSECUTION
that comes from the SERMON
that comes from the MIRACLE - - Does that make sense ??

Miracle → Sermon → Persecution → Response
& this causes the N.T. Church to begin spreading like wildfire

Let’s Pray
We **begin today** w/ Peter & John going up to the temple at the hour of prayer - the **9th hour**, which is our **3PM**

The disciples are still **fully connected** to the Jewish temple

*because* they saw Jesus Christ as the **FULFILLMENT of all** the went on in the temple (just like we do)

The disciples **DID NOT** turn against **Jewish worship** in the temple

It was the **Religious Leaders** of the temple that fiercely **turned against** the disciples

& all thru-out church history - **God has SAVED** people & **DRAWN them** into the church

& far too often - the **RELIGIOUS people** of the church have **TURNED** the people **God** was saving - **AWAY** from the church

Which is **partly the story** of the **Calvary Chapel Movement**

**KAY Smith** convinced her husband **Chuck** - **NOT** to **turn AWAY** the smelly **drug-addict hippies** from the church - but **embrace them**

& this incredible **MOVEMENT** of God - that **WE** are part of was **BIRTHED** from **that** commitment

When **God saves** people - He saves them **JUST AS THEY ARE** & He **draws them** into fellowship in the church

Let’s make sure we **embrace them** - As **God** is **Saving** them, **OK** ?

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So - - **Peter & John** - are **headed** to the temple to pray with all their **fellow Jews**
& as they enter the temple court
they come across a man **Lame From Birth - begging for ALMS**

**Acts 3:1–2 (esv)**

1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.
2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.

Ch 4 says this man was over **40 yrs old** - & **Lame from birth**
& was **CARRIED daily** to this spot to **ask for alms** (to beg)

The **Beautiful Gate** was **NOT** a gate in the outer wall
of the temple mount - it was **INSIDE** the temple court area

It separated the “**Court of the Women**” from the “**Court of Israel**”
where only **Jewish males** could enter

It Faced **EAST** - & from **INSIDE** the Temple area - Thru this Gate
you could **SEE** the **Mt of OLIVES** - where **Jesus will Return** (Zech 14)

It was called the “**Beautiful Gate**” because it was
the **most beautiful** of all the gates in the temple area

**75 FT** **HIGH** - **60 FT WIDE** - Made of **Polished BRONZE**
It took **20 men** to open & close it - *It was Magnificent*

**AND** - on this Incredible Gate - of **Polished BRONZE**
was actually a **VINE BRANCH**

Symbolizing to the Jews, that they were the **Vineyard of God**
But symbolizing to **us** Jesus’ declaration - “*I am the Vine, & you are the branches . . . & apart from me you can do nothing*” (Jn 15:5)

& so - it was **against** this strikingly **beautiful gate** - that **this man** - lame from birth - sat, begging **ALMS**

& he was in a **coveted position** for an **ALMS** beggar

**Because** this is where the **Jewish men** would **enter** the area of the temple - to make their **sacrifices**

& there were **THREE** things the **Jews** really wanted to be **SEEN** doing to be considered - **PIOUS** (Religious)

1) Making **SACRIFICES**
2) **PRAYING** in Public
3) Giving **ALMS**

So - to be seen **Giving ALMS** on their way into the court to Make **SACRIFICES** & **PRAY** - would take care of **ALL THREE** at once

**So - Two things are important to note here**

1) **This beggar was no novice - This was THE Hot spot**
   
   *Which means he probably would’ve been there when Jesus passed thru these same gates many times - and did NOT heal him*

2) **He was almost certainly NOT the only beggar there**

   *Which means not every beggar that day - got healed*

The **historians** say sometimes the beggars (most **LAME** in some way) would be **lined up right here - asking alms** - of those going in

But **TODAY** - We’re going to see God **CHOOSE THIS** beggar & **HEAL** him - for **God’s PURPOSE**, & for **God’s GLORY**

& **THAT** is exactly **how we see** true **healing** done **TODAY**
God is going to HEAL this man  
his HEALING is going to LAUNCH a great SERMON  
that SERMON is going to LAUNCH the PERSECUTION  
that PERSECUTION is going to LAUNCH a RESPONSE  
that CAUSES the church to SPREAD like Wildfire 

God IS in Control - God IS Building His Church  

& this Lame Man - & Peter & John - are about to take their places to be USED by God - for HIS Good Purpose  

& WE should be striving - to do the same thing, in our lives  

Cont’g in Acts 3:3-5 (esv)  
3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.  
4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.”  
5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.  

Peter & John - & THIS Beggar are now EYE-to-EYE  

But notice carefully - the Beggar is CLUELESS  
v.5 says - He expected to receive something from them (alms)  

There is NO WAY - the “Word Faith” teachers of our day can say this man HAD ENOUGH FAITH to be healed  
There’s a pretty good chance he believed in the God of Israel  

GOD’S Choice  
For GOD’S Purpose  
For GOD’S Glory
cause he was in the **temple courts** every day

But right now - **ALL** he’s expecting - was the **sound of a coin**
**hitting the bottom of his little tin cup** *(that’s all the faith he has)*

So - let me **give** you some **Truths** that can clearly be seen
in our **text** today - about **HEALING**

1) God **HEALS** - *He is the same yesterday, today, & forever*
2) God heals **SOVEREIGNLY** - *Not every beggar was healed*
3) God heals **DIFFERENTLY** - *Jesus healed a dozen ways, now this*
4) God heals for **HIS GLORY** - *He always has a **purpose***

Guys - We **CANNOT** Force God’s hand to heal
no matter how **LOUDLY** we say we can

We can only make ourselves **AVAILABLE**
to be Part of His **Purpose** - & Part of His **Plan**
allowing God to **HEAL us** - & **USE us** - as **HE** sees fit

& we see **God’s Plan** begin to “**Take Shape**” here in **Vs 6**

**Acts 3:6-7 (esv)**

6 **But Peter said,** “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”

7 **And he took him by the right hand and raised him up,** and **immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.**

**Peter** says - **I don’t have any change on me bro** . . .
but here’s what **I DO HAVE**

**IN THE NAME** of Jesus Christ of Nazareth - **RISE UP & WALK !!**
In the **POWER** of **The Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**
it’s **TIME** for you to be made well

**THIS** is Jesus continuing to **DO** - **BY** the Holy Spirit, & **THRU** the **CHURCH** - what He **DID** in the **Gospels**

**JESUS** is healing this man - just like He **had done** so many times & in **so many ways** - while He was **on earth** in the flesh

It’s just that **NOW** Peter & John are “**being**” the **body of Christ** & Jesus is **working this miracle** - *thru them*

& **Notice** in **V.7** - **WHOSE FAITH** is in **ACTION** here ??

**PETER** - **TOOK HIM**, by the hand - & **PETER RAISED** him up

Peter First **GRABS** this man’s attention with the **NAME** of Jesus Christ

& then he **GRABS** him *Physically - IN FAITH* & **PULLS HIM** to his **FEET**

This word for **TOOK** Him by the hand is the word used to **ARREST** or **APPREHEND** a person

This man - had been **APPREHENDED** by the **POWER** of Jesus Christ

When he was **just hoping** for a few coins to get **some Matza bread**

& then - also notice - at the end of **V.7** - where it says *immediately his feet and ankles were made strong*
These are **MEDICAL terms** - found nowhere else in the Bible again supporting the fact that Dr Luke is writing

Now - **Have you ever** seen **GYMNASTS**

where one’s on the ground - & the other one grabs him & pulls him up & that person goes **flying up in the air** . . .

That’s **the picture** of what’s happening here !!

& it’s all part of **God’s purpose** - to make sure this Miracle is being **SEEN** by everybody

which becomes very important in the **next Ch** when the **PERSECUTION** begins

**Acts 3:8** (esv)

8 And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

**I’VE ALWAYS LOVED** this Verse - The **LAME MAN** goes Walking & Leaping & Praising God - I soo relate to this vs

This man - Lame from Birth - **FLIES up** in the air & starts walking & leaping & PRAISING GOD

Guys - this **LAME BEGGAR** is a Picture of **US** in our **CONDITION** without Christ

& God is going to **SAVE** this **BEGGAR** - & **USE Him** Just like He will **SAVE** You & I - & **USE us**

& Don’t you just **LOVE** to see people
Walking & Leaping & Praising God

It’s such a Testimony of the miracle of the NEW LIFE that Jesus Christ pours into us

So . . . HOW ABOUT US ??

How often do we go Walking & Leaping & Praising into God’s Presence ??

WE were Lame - - - WE were Paralyzed in our SIN

& JESUS reached down - - & PICKED US UP
& HEALED US - - & RESTORED US to LIFE . . .

& We can learn a lot from this Beggar’s response to being HEALED & SAVED by the touch of Jesus

Guys - Let’s try Walking & Leaping & Praising God sometimes

It reminds us of the 10 LEPERS that Jesus healed in Luke 17

They ALL cried out to Jesus
He told them ALL to GO - show themselves to the Priest
& AS they went - they were ALL healed

But Only ONE out of the TEN - Returned to give Jesus PRAISE
& he was a SAMARITAN - NOT even a JEW

& Jesus asked - WHERE are the other NINE ??
Guys . . . DON’T be like the Other NINE

Every once in a while just come Walking & Leaping & Praising - into God’s Presence, ok?
So this man - Known by **ALL** the people - as the Beggar at the Gate Comes **DANCING** into the temple

& **NOW** - He’s **READY** about to be **USED** by God !

**Acts 3:9-11 (esv)**

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God,
10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.
11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s.

**God used** this miracle to **DRAW** the People in - **WHY ??**
  to **HEAR** the Gospel Message - of course

The people **SAW** this man that **was LAME** - **now** **DANCING**
  & they were **filled** with **wonder** & **amazement**

& Again - here is a **personal application** for us

**The people KNEW** this man
  & they **SAW** that something **SUPERNATURAL** happened to him
  & it **DREW** them to the **SOURCE** of the miracle

& the **EXACT** same thing **can happen** in our lives

If God has allowed you to **SUFFER** in your **SIN**
  & then He has **HEALED YOU** - & **RESTORED YOU**

He has done it for **HIS GLORY** - to **DRAW** the People to **HIMSELF** - **THRU HIS** work in **YOUR** life
Are we **JOINING** God - in **the Work** He wants to do **around us**
by **allowing people** to see the **MIRACULOUS CHANGE**
**God** has **brought** into our lives

**THIS** man let the people **SEE** what God had done in his **LIFE**
& they were **filled** with **Wonder** & **Amazement** -
& they **all came** running to **SEE** the **CAUSE** of the miracle

& **NOTICE** the Healed man’s **ROLE** at this point
**V.11** says - he was **clingling to Peter and John**

They were the **HANDS** of Jesus in his life
& so he was **CLINGING** to them

& again a very **DRAMATIC** Word - - - **CLINGING to for dear life**

& so - they’re standing in **Solomon’s PORCH** - on the east side of temple mount - right in front of the “**Beautiful Gate**”

& the people all **RUSH** over to see what’s happening
& **BAAM** - we have a **FULL REPEAT** of **Acts Ch 2**

In **Ch 2** God **used a MIRACLE** to draw the people -
to **hear the Gospel** Message & get **SAVED**

In **Ch 3** God **uses a MIRACLE** to draw the people -
to **hear the Gospel** Message & get **SAVED**
Are you starting to see a **PATTERN** here ??

**BUT** in BOTH instances - the **FOCUS** was **NOT** - on the Miracle
It was on the **GOSPEL MESSAGE** & the **SAVATION** of the people

The **MIRACLE** was the **TOOL** God used
to bring about the **greater miracle** of **Salvation** for **The People**

& this is the way it **ALWAYS IS**
the **GREATEST** Miracle is always - **SALVATION**

**NO** other **Miracle** **MATCHES** - the **Miracle of Salvation**

& so now - **Peter’s** on the spot **again**

**Acts 3:12** *(esv)*

12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?

**FIRST THING** Peter does - is to make clear - what this is **NOT**
just like he did in **Acts Ch 2**

In **Acts 2** he says - **this is NOT what you think** (these are not drunk)

Here he says - **this is NOT what you think** -
This has **NOTHING** to do
with our own **POWER** or Our own **PIETY** (Godliness)

& Then - - **after clarifying** what this is **NOT**
**Peter flows** right into - what this **IS !!**

& **again** - another incredible **Spirit-Filled sermon** - comes out of the previous “**foot-in-mouth**” Apostle Peter

**Acts 3:13** *(esv)*

13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.
THIS is what you call - an ATTENTION GETTER & Peter’s just getting started

He says - OUR God - Glorified HIS Servant Jesus Whom YOU Denied, when Pilate wanted to RELEASE Him

& then he cont’s - Acts 3:14-15 (esv)
14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,
15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this (the resurrection) we are witnesses.

OK - -- Now it’s gettin’ personal !!

YOU DENIED the Holy & Righteous One
YOU CHOSE a Murderer instead
YOU KILLED the Author of Life, whom God RAISED from the Dead

Guys - WE DENIED the Holy One
WE CHOSE SIN instead of God
& OUR SIN - KILLED the Author of Life

Those are the FACTS
That is the TRUTH
That is where EACH of us STAND - - Guilty before God

& then Peter uses a LIVING ILLUSTRATION - right in front of us
To PROVE the Power of the One whom Our Sin KILLED . . .
Acts 3:16 (esv)
16 And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

“The Name” of Jesus means the **Full Character & Nature** of Who He is

& Peter says - **BY FAITH** in the **Full Character & Nature** of **Jesus Christ** - this man has been healed

It is **Faith in Jesus Christ** - that’s given this man his perfect **HEALTH** - in the presence of you all

Now - the **clearest interpretation** of WHO’S Faith this is would be **Peter & John’s**

because there’s **NO indication** this lame man had faith **BEFORE** this miracle - **Tho** he certainly does now

But here is another **GREAT** lesson **many of us** need to learn

Notice - Peter will **NOT EVEN** draw attention to himself by saying **MY** faith - or **OUR** Faith

If you have **Faith**, even to heal - **Eph 2:8** says it’s a **GIFT** from God (so get over yourself)

The **ONLY time** we should say I - **ME** - or **MINE** is when we are talking about **our SIN**

because **everything else** - besides our own **SIN** Belongs to **GOD** !!
& Peter & John **DON’T** even **draw attention** to *themselves* by saying *MY* faith, or *OUR* Faith

Peter just says **FAITH** (period) in God - **Has done this** & **that’s an EXAMPLE** - **WE** need to **FOLLOW**

& now **Peter** - opens the door - for his **hearer’s Salvation**

& He’s also (again) going to teach us - about the **DUAL truth** of *Our CHOICES* - & *God’s SOVEREIGNTY* - *(just like he did in ch 2)*

**Acts 3:17-18 (esv)**

17 “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. *(your choice)*

18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. *(God’s Sovereignty)*

That’s the **DOUBLE-EDGED Sword** of *Free-Will, & God’s Sovereignty* - Right there !

& **NOW** - comes the **POINT** of this Entire **Miraculous** Event

**Acts 3:19-20(a) (esv)**

19 Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,

20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, . . .

What’s **the POINT** of **ALL THIS ??**

  I mean - **ALL THIS** - God’s entire plan

including the *Life, Death, & Resurrection* of Jesus Christ . . . **Leading** all the way up - to **this man** being **healed** here today ??
The **POINT** - The **GOAL** is - that you & I would **REPEND**, & **TURN to** Jesus Christ

that **our sins** may be **blotted out**, & that **times of refreshing may come** from the **presence** of the Lord

**THAT’S** the **POINT** - That’s the **GOAL** - That’s the **PURPOSE**

God wants you **SAVED** - & He wants you **HEALED** of the **SIN** that’s **Paralyzing** your Life

& He has **healed this Man** Lame from birth today to give you a **Living Example**

of the **Healing** He wants to bring into **YOUR** Life - -

**Do you SEE IT ??**

Now - we’re going to **save** the **actual end** of **Peter’s Sermon** for our **NEXT** Msg

Because it **leads** into the **Persecution** that’s **Triggered** by this event

**THIS** - is the **Main Point** - - **Acts 3:19-20(a) (esv)**

19 Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,
20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, . . .

**REPEND** therefore - which means **TURN** from your **SIN** & **TURN** to Jesus Christ
That your **SINS** may be **BLOTTED OUT**
   it means Literally **WIPE AWAY - CANCELLED** for good

**Col 2:13-14 (esv)**
13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,
14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

& if **YOU** are here today -
   & you **Need to REPENT** - to **TURN to GOD**

So that your Sins may be **BLOTTED out - CANCELLED**
   Nailed to the Cross & **Covered** by the **Blood of Jesus**

Then I **want** to **give you a chance** to do that here **in a minute**

& if you will **TRULY REPENT** - & **TURN TOWARD GOD**

Then **Times of Refreshing WILL** come -
   from the **Presence of the Lord** in your Life

The **OFFER** we read **HERE** - in this Sermon
   Still **STANDS** today
it’s as **REAL** today as the **day it happened** in Jerusalem
   & as it was **THEN** - So it should be **NOW**

The combination of **SEEING** the **POWER** of God
   & **HEARING** the **Word** of God
is **meant** to bring **LIFE** - in place of **DEATH**

It’s meant to bring a **RESPONSE of REPENTANCE**
   & the **RECEIVING of Life** in Jesus Christ
That our sins may be **BLOTTED** out - & times of **REFRESHING**
may come from the **PRESENCE** of the Lord - in our lives

So **FIRST** (pls listen) - If **you’re already a Christian**
& you **need prayer** - - - just **hold on** a minute

if you have **NEVER** made a **Public Confession of FAITH** in Jesus
I want to **give you** a chance to do that - - **FIRST**

If you need to be **HEALED** of the **SIN** that has **PARALYZED** you

Then **I would say** - - **RISE UP & WALK**

**RESPOND** to the Call of Jesus Christ - to **be SAVED**
& **HE** will Blot out your **SIN**
& **HE** will bring times of **REFRESHING** into your life

If **you need** to do that
I want you to **come up here** & do that with me