

Text— Acts 3:1-10

Fellow redeemed sinners, redeemed by the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,

The events recorded in our Scripture selection took place shortly after Pentecost, at which time the Holy Ghost empowered the Apostles, and they subsequently went forth boldly preaching Jesus, and doing miracles in His name. Thus, the New Testament Church was launched in a big way, for immediately preceding our text we read that “the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” (Acts 2:47)

Yes, THE LORD added to the church daily such as should be saved, for although men preach God’s Word, it is God who works in and through His Holy Word in folk’s hearts to convert sinners into saints, for Holy Writ reports, “after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:21; Romans 10:17) Furthermore, we must never forget that 1 Corinthians 12:3 informs us, “no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.” Hence, it’s a fact that God does the saving, all of it.

Our Scripture selection demonstrates God’s power as we behold:

“A LAME MAN HEALED”

With that as our theme, may we, in view of our text and with the help of the Holy Ghost, see—

- 1) When and where the healing of a lame man took place
- 2) How the healing of a lame man took place
- 3) What was the reaction of the people who saw a formerly lame man walking

-1-

Verse 1, ----- (Acts 3:1)

The apostles did not cease traditional worship activities that did not conflict with the saving message of Jesus Christ, for our text opens by informing us: *Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.*

So, it was about three o’clock in the afternoon, one of the traditional Jewish times to regularly pray, that Peter and John went up together into the temple. The temple in Jerusalem was located on a mount so that the apostles literally did go up together into the temple. Obviously, the apostles would also have opportunity to preach there in the temple grounds where a number of people were gathered together.

Jewish converts to Christianity spent time regularly in the temple, for Acts 2:46-47 relates that “they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people.” Hence, public worship of the Lord was valued by those early Christians; likewise, public worship should be valued by us Christians today, for Hebrews 10:24-25 declares, “let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

Verses 2 & 3, ----- (Acts 3:2-3)

A poor beggar was present there at the temple gate, and his case was a sad one, for we just read that *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 of them that entered into the temple.*

Observe that the temple gate was called “beautiful.” Historians relate that particular temple gate was a massive structure, and was covered with plates of Corinthian brass which rendered it quite a beautiful sight.

But think about the sad case with the man laid at that beautiful gate of the temple. The man was so utterly immobile that he had to be carried and laid at the gate of the temple, where he would then beg people entering the temple to gift him with some money on which he could live in this world. Every day that poor lame man was placed at the temple gate, where he would beg. The man's physical condition was quite sad, for he had been born unable to use his legs and feet; he was continually dependent on other folks for mobility.

Nevertheless, the lame man did what he had to do to survive, for he, *seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms*. The poor lame individual begged Peter and John for some money, right there at the beautiful gate of the temple around 3:00 P.M.

-2-

As we ponder the next few verses of our text, let us see how the healing of a lame man took place.

Verses 4 & 5, ----- (Acts 3:4-5)

The lame man was lying near the beautiful gate of the temple, and he, upon seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked them for a monetary gift, *And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them*.

Thus, the lame man was directed by Peter to look upon Peter and John, and the man did so, expecting to receive alms from them.

Verses 6 & 7, ----- (Acts 3:6-7)

The lame man had asked for a monetary donation, and he looked upon Peter and John expecting such a gift from them; but instead, *Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength*.

Peter was not rich in worldly wealth, for he had no money to give to that lame man. However, Peter had something better to give the lame man: Peter had knowledge of Jesus Christ of Nazareth who is the all-powerful Savior of the world. Therefore, in the precious name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Peter believingly commanded the lame man to rise up and walk. And Peter took that man *by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength*.

Verse 8, ----- (Acts 3:8)

The formerly lame man's feet and ankle bones received strength alright, for he did not simply limp around or ask for a cane or some crutches; rather, *he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God*. The man's cure was instantaneous and complete. There was no rehabilitation time or special exercises required.

Note well what the previously lame man did after his being miraculously healed: he entered with Peter and John into the temple, *walking, and leaping, and praising God*. Yes, the man went into the temple to worship God! The man did not split the scene and head to the nearest tavern to tip a few; no, the man rightly praised the Lord God. The man knew that his cure was God's work in him, and that therefore Jesus of Nazareth IS GOD since it was in Jesus' name that he was healed of his lameness. The man was right, for concerning Jesus Christ Colossians 2:9 informs us: "in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." Indeed, Jesus Christ of Nazareth is true man and true God, the one true Savior of the world!

Fellow Christians, take it to heart that we were all by nature spiritually lame and unable to move even one fraction of an inch toward God, for if we are honest we must all confess as did David the psalmist, "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." (Psalm 51:5) Accordingly, we needed to be healed of spiritual lameness by God Himself, and that is just what He did when He called us by the Gospel of Christ and

gifted us with faith in Him— faith which personally receives the forgiveness of sins and salvation which Jesus earned for the whole world by His perfect keeping of God’s Law and His paying for all the sins of all people with His own holy and precious blood that He shed while nailed to the cross of Calvary.

Indeed, Jesus of Nazareth is our Deliverer from doom, our Rescuer from never-ending ruin, since He is true God and true man but one Christ, for Holy Writ clearly states, “when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:36)

Therefore, let us regularly enter God’s house and praise the Lord for all that He has done for us. Yea, let us thank and praise the Lord each and every day for all that He has done and still does for us, because Lamentations 3:22 informs us, “It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.” All glory be to the Lord Jesus Christ!

-3-

As we ponder our text to its conclusion, let us see what was the reaction of the people who saw a formerly lame man walking.

Verses 9 & 10, ----- (Acts 3:9-10)

The people recognized who it was that entered the temple walking and praising God. The people knew it was the familiar figure who sat there at the beautiful gate of the temple day after day asking

alms. It blew their minds that the man who had been lame from his mother’s womb was now walking and leaping and praising God inside the temple, *for they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.*

Subsequent to our text we are informed, “And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon’s, greatly wondering. And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.” (Acts 3:11-16)

Yes, it was JESUS’ NAME, through faith in His name, that had healed the lame man of his lameness, for Jesus promised His disciples in Matthew 21:22, “all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” It was NOT Peter and John who had power of their own to actually heal; rather, it was JESUS’ NAME, through faith in His name, that healed the lame man of his lameness. It is the LORD JESUS CHRIST whose power provided the healing while faith in Him received the blessing. Peter and John believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; Peter then spoke to the lame man in Jesus’ name, and consequently the power of Jesus who is Lord healed the lame man of his lameness.

Likewise, take it to heart that faith in Jesus Christ saves only because it lays hold on Jesus Christ and His merits. Faith is NOT the Savior; Jesus Christ is

the Savior whom faith personally lays hold on and clings to.

m.e.l.

My friends, the Lord does the saving, all of it, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (John 3:16-18; Romans 1:16-17; 10:17; Philippians 2:13; Mark 16:16)

Accordingly, I repeat what I said earlier: God does the saving, all of it. We've certainly seen in our sermon text God's power as we beheld a lame man healed. Fellow Christians, we've also been reminded of God's power which has worked in us, because we know we would not be Christians if not for the Lord's powerful work in our hearts, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." (Romans 10:10-11)

Therefore, let us daily and sincerely repent of our sins; and, let us, with God's help, continue to cling to Christ Jesus in heart-deep faith as our personal Savior and Lord, for, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." (Acts 4:12) Amen.