

## Jesus Draws the Lost Through Miracles

ACTS 3:1-16 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. <sup>4</sup> And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> 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!" <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. <sup>8</sup> And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. <sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> 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.

### ❖ Recap

- Spirit has come
- Disciples are preaching and reaching the Lost
- The Church is growing...
- **They are continuing in:**
  - 1) Apostles Teachings 2) Fellowship 3) Breaking Bread 4) Prayers

### ❖ Intro

- **I want to take this chapter as one piece:**
  - Going to give you an overview of what we are seeing...
  - Because the healing leads to the events that follow for 2 chapters...
  - And they can not be separated...
  - The Miracle is nothing on its own... it is not sitting by itself...
  - But we will only make it completely through the miracle itself...
  - Hopefully you see it inside the whole narrative though

### ❖ Outline:

- 1) Overview
- 2) Parallels
- 3) The Setting
- 4) The Miracle
- 5) The Response: Praising, Wonder and Amazement
- 6) The Proclaiming of Jesus

### ❖ 1) Overview:

- **IN Acts 3 Luke continues to tell the story of the early church...**

- In Acts 3 we see the workings of the apostles and the response of the people
- We see some filled with wonder
- And we see some opposition towards them
- **This section continues for almost 2 chapters...**
  - The man is healed, people are amazed,
  - Peter Preaches Jesus, many more souls are added...
  - Leaders question and warn them, Peter and John continue to preach Jesus,
  - Then they praise God for what He has done...
  - **All the way to the end of ch 4 where we see again that the early church**
    - Continued together and none had any need
    - **Acts 4:32-33** <sup>32</sup> Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup> And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.
- **Application:**
  - The End result of this miracle is similar to that of the day when the tongues came upon them
  - Many souls were saved

## ❖ 2) Parallels (Similarities to other sections of scripture)

- **Acts 3 is all about Jesus.**
- **Reminiscent of Acts ch.2 and the miracles throughout the book of John**
  - Jesus shows His power, people are amazed, and then we see the nature and glory of Jesus
- **In John 5 Jesus healed a lame man:**
  - **He said... do you want to walk, they guy says yes...**
    - Jesus says, take up your bed and walk... and it was the Sabbath day
    - So Jewish leaders stop him and he explains that Jesus told him to carry his bed
  - **Jewish Leaders start to persecute Jesus cause He healed on the Sabbath**
    - And then Jesus says something that they decipher Him to be saying He is equal with God
    - So you begin to see more and more of the nature and glory of Jesus...
  - **This gives Jesus the opportunity to preach... to tell people who He is...**
    - **John 5:21** For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.
  - **Jesus continues to preach the gospel to them and give them a chance at eternal life:**
    - **John 5:24** <sup>24</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
  - **So... Jesus does a Miracle...**
    - People are amazed... some are mad
    - And Jesus uses the miracle to display His glory to them by pointing them to eternal life
    - Through Him...
  - **We see in these miracles that they lead to an opportunity for people to respond to Jesus**
- **Acts 2**
  - **The Holy Spirit comes**
    - The disciples are a filled with the Spirit and begin speaking in different tongues
    - People are amazed... some think they are drunk...
    - But they say... what is going on?... we are hearing the mighty works of God in our own languages
    - From these uneducated people that we know there is no way they know our language...
  - **Then Peter stands up to explain**

- And he preaches the gospel...
- He tells them of the wonders of the life of Jesus
- He tells them they are filled with sin and are to blame for His death
- He tells them Jesus was crucified...
- But then says... we are witnesses that He was raised from the dead...
- We saw it with our own eyes...
- And now Jesus is in heaven and the right hand of the father and He will be coming back...
- **And He gives them an opportunity to respond to Jesus...**
  - Acts 2:38 <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

➤ **Acts 3:**

- Starts with a Miracle
- People are amazed and filled with wonder
- And Peter Preaches about Jesus

➤ **Application:**

- So... You see the pattern... When God does something out of the norm... Something amazing
  - He does so, not for the sake of the miracle itself
  - Not just to show people what He can do...
  - But the purpose is the proclaiming of the name and nature of His Son Jesus Christ...
  - So that men may have their sins forgiven

❖ Glorious: Jesus does Miracles and Sends His Servants to Preach so the World can be Saved from their Sins

❖ **3) The Setting**

- Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.

➤ **You see Peter and John carrying on their daily habits...**

- They would leave their home and go to the temple and pray...
- Their were two main prayer times at the temple daily
  - The first was around 9 in the morning
  - And this one was around 3 in the afternoon
  - And peter and John are continuing to practice many of the religious habits of the Jews...

➤ **A man lame from birth**

- So they see this man that had been lame for over 40 years
- And this guy had to be carried to the temple daily...
- So... this is likely not the first time that Peter and John had seen this guy

➤ **Picture the lame man:**

- From birth he was unable to walk
- Unable to make a living
  - They didn't have many desk jobs back then...
  - Very few computers were circulating...
- His only hope was to live off the kindness of those around Him
- And He had to sit and beg at the temple
- He had no power on his own to get up and walk

➤ **Application**

- I want you to understand fully that this lame man is a picture of you and me

- Yes... He was a real person that got truly healed but I do not think God does these miracles without purpose...
- The lame man also represents you and me...
- Before Jesus, we could not walk spiritually...
- We could not come to God on our own
- We had no way to pay for our sins...
- We were utterly helpless
- And we would have to rely on the kindness and grace of God if we were to ever be made to walk

#### ❖ 4) The Miracle

- <sup>4</sup> And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> 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!" <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.
- **He Wants One thing... They offer another...**
  - So... He was asking for money... For alms... For an offering
- **God offers him healing without Him asking for it...**
  - Just like God offers and gives us salvation on His own...
  - This man is not even thinking about walking...
  - Probably lost hope many years ago...
  - He is asking for gold or silver...
- **Peter and John stare at Him**
  - And the man stares right back...
  - So there is this moment when they come face to face...
  - And they are all aware of each other...
- **Peter gives him a great gift...**
  - He says... I do not have what you are looking for...
  - I do not have silver or gold...
  - **Application:**
    - How applicable is this to us...
    - How often have we asked God for the things we do not need...
    - The list for me is endless...
    - I ask for the things that are not important...
    - Or they are the wrong thing for me...
    - I ask for one thing, but my Merciful heavenly Father gives me what I need...
    - He knows me and loves me and cares for me...
  - So Peter says... I do not have what you are looking for... But..
- **The Miracle:**
  - **but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"** <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.
  - **First of all notice:**
    - His feet and ankles were made strong...
    - And this occurred to him by no power of His own...
    - He had no power or ability to make himself better...
    - But the God of creation commanded his muscles to be strong and to work properly
    - He told the man's bones to align themselves properly

- He told the man's feet and ankles to carry this man around...
  - And what is awesome: He was healed enough to be able to go from dragging his feet around
  - To jumping and leaping and praising God...
  - **Now Look at what Peter had told Him...**
    - What I do have I give to you...In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth...Rise up and Walk
    - This is great Faith... Later you will hear Peter say
      - ◆ Acts 3:12 "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?"
      - ◆ Then... After saying it was through Jesus... He continues by saying...
      - ◆ Acts 3:16<sup>16</sup> 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.
    - **So Peter and John**
      - ◆ Had passed this guy numerous times...
      - ◆ But there was something different about this day and this time...
      - ◆ Jesus had given him Faith to heal this man...
      - ◆ Peter says... it was not by our own power...
      - ◆ Rather... It was by Faith in His name...
    - **Notice:**
      - ◆ We are not talking about the faith of the lame man
      - ◆ We are looking at the Faith of Peter and John...
      - ◆ Jesus had given them Faith to heal this man...
    - **Peter says... I do not have silver or gold... but I do have something else...**
      - ◆ Jesus had given Peter the Faith to heal this man
      - ◆ So Peter believed Jesus and trusted Jesus and knew of His great power...
      - ◆ And as Peter was prompted by the Holy Spirit...
      - ◆ He opened His mouth and said...
  - **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**
    - He made sure to state where the power was coming from
    - Peter was simply a walking vessel for the power of God through Jesus Christ...
  - **The Name of Jesus Christ**
    - Someone's name was more than how people identified them or called upon them...
    - **The name of Jesus encases everything about who He is...**
      - ◆ The name of Jesus is identified with who He is
      - ◆ One of power and might and mercy
      - ◆ The one who came and walked and did signs and wonders
      - ◆ And died for our sins
      - ◆ But rose again
      - ◆ Who is not only the son of God but God as well...
  - **Therefore:**
    - Believing on the name of Jesus means so much more than just
    - Believing in a guy named Jesus from two thousand years ago
    - It is believing on the character and nature and person that He has shown us He is
- **Peter had Great Faith:**
- Listen... this faith is still available to the church today...
  - So is Healing...
    - We have seen and heard of God healing people even from our own body here...

- At times He does it miraculously and in a way no one can explain
- Other times He does it slowly and over time...
- Some times it is one man's prayers...
- Other times it is many prayers...
- **In James 4 he says "You do not have because you do not ask"**
  - Jesus told us that we could ask for anything in His name and we would receive it
  - Now... that obviously is not a free ticket...
  - It has to be something that agrees with who Jesus is...
  - Something to bring glory to His name for His purposes of good...
- **So let us have faith...**
  - And let us have trust that He knows what we need
  - That we have a wonderful heavenly Father...
  - **Let us not be like:**

➤ **Thomas Aquinas and Pope Innocent II**

- The pope says to Thomas... "No longer does the church have to say... Silver and gold have I none..." and to that Thomas replies "And no longer can she say rise up and walk"

➤ Application

❖ **5) Response: Praising, Wonder and Amazement**

- **<sup>8</sup> And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. <sup>9</sup> And all the people saw him walking and praising God, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's.**

➤ **Isaiah 35:6**

- We see messianic salvation coming to the people
- **Is 35:5-6 "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy."**
  - Another prophecy being fulfilled by the coming of Jesus Christ

➤ **This Guy Responds:**

- After sitting around for over 40 years... This guy is ready to move
- Reminds me of my Dad:
  - He fell off a crane... neck surgery and back surgery... I remember him saying If He could ever get out of that bed He would never slow down again
  - And He hasn't... He sits to sleep and eat and watch a football game...
  - Other than that... he is non stop...
- **This Guy here... Stood... began to walk... Went in the temple with Peter and John...**
  - Then He starts leaping and praising God...
  - He was obviously so excited he could not contain himself...

➤ **It draws some attention**

- I'm pretty sure things are fairly calm at the temple during the hours of prayer...
- Probably not a lot of running and stuff...
- But not this day... this guy is jumping up and down and praising God our loud

➤ **At this point... People Recognize Him**

- They knew it was the guy that sat at the gate begging...
- So, they all begin to run too...
- They run over to where Peter, John and this Guy were...

➤ **Filled With Wonder and Amazement**

- They could not believe what they were seeing...
- They were like: What in the world has just happened...
- They were amazed... this is an amazing thing that has just happened...
- Apparently these types of healing were not common in the temple
- Luke explains them a little more:
  - All the people were utterly astounded...
- **So... As we are about to see...**
  - This amazement by the people is going to open the door for Peter to preach the gospel
  - To tell people about Jesus
  - To point to Jesus as the author of this miracle
  - And to offer them a chance to respond by repenting of their sins
  - And trusting in the “name of Jesus”
- **But for them... and for us today... there is a warning:**
- **Many are Impressed with the Spectacular but not necessarily believing in what it signified**
  - **Many are impressed with the story of Jesus... Maybe because of the miracles...**
    - Or the power
    - Or the love and mercy and grace
    - Maybe it’s the selfless love on the cross...
    - The world loves a good story...
  - **The movie Son of God will be coming out soon...**
    - And millions will pay to see it... and it will be a good flick...
    - And many of the critics will rave over the story of Jesus
  - But who will believe? Who will follow?

## ❖ 6) The Proclaiming of Jesus

- **<sup>12</sup> 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? <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> But you denied the **Holy and Righteous One**, and asked for a **murderer** to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and you killed the **Author of life**, whom God **raised** from the dead. To this we are **witnesses**. <sup>16</sup> 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.**
- This is where we will pick up next week...
- Expound a little
- Application

## ❖ Invitation

- Have you ever truly trusted in Jesus Christ
- Have you ever repented of your sins... and placed your faith in Jesus
- Have you followed Jesus
- And have you been filled with the Holy Spirit as your promise of salvation?
- You can today if God is drawing you