

Acts 3

Healing the Beggar Who Was Unable to Walk

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. 2 And a man who had been unable to walk from birth was being carried, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order for him to beg for charitable gifts from those entering the temple grounds.

3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple grounds, he began asking to receive a charitable gift. 4 But Peter, along with John, looked at him intently and said, "Look at us!" 5 And he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, "I do not have silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, walk!"

7 And grasping him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. 8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God; 10 and they recognized him as being the very one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg for charitable gifts, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Peter's Second Sermon

11 While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the portico named Solomon's, completely astonished. 12 But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why are you staring at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him walk?"

13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. 14 But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

15 but put to death the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses. 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.

17 "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers also did. 18 But the things which God previously announced by the mouths of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has fulfilled in this way. 19 Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things, about which God spoke by the mouths of His holy prophets from ancient times. 22 Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR COUNTRYMEN; TO HIM YOU SHALL LISTEN regarding everything He says to you.

23 And it shall be that every soul that does not listen to that prophet shall be utterly

destroyed from among the people.’ 24 And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken from Samuel and his successors onward, have also announced these days. 25 It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God ordained with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’ 26 God raised up His Servant for you first, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one of you from your wicked ways.”

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God’s character?

Paul Helpful insights

1. Peter and John are on their way to pray, but are distracted by the needs of another.
2. Would you have taken the time out to minister to this person?
3. This man was a regular at the temple called beautiful. As an invalid he had no choice but to take up the trade of a beggar.
4. In this man’s request to Peter and John, his intention was to beg for alms, which is an old word for money.
5. The man whose legs were not working saw the potential in Peter and John, as donor candidates, who may be able to give.
6. So he asked Peter and John for alms and they gave him legs!
7. Peter and John’s response was to gaze at him with intense eyes. What does that mean?
8. Peter said ‘look at us’ – what was he expecting?
9. The man’s expectations began to rise and he gave Peter and John his undivided attention - he believed they would give.
10. Peter said ‘we don’t have silver and we don’t have gold’ that must have disappointed the man! But then he said ‘what we do have we give to you’. We can only give what we have.
11. And what did Peter and John have to give this lame man?
12. They had the authority to make his legs work and make this lame man walk.
13. They had the anointing upon their lives to work a miracle to enable this man to stand up and walk and dance.
14. Peter having said, then acted, by helping the man to his feet. At what point did Peter know this was an appropriate thing to do?
15. The first thing that happened to the man was that his ankles were strengthened along with his feet – something happened to him.
16. Being helped up by Peter, the man no longer lame, leaped to his feet and walked, he was walking and leaping and praising God.
17. What a testimony this miracle was to the people who were there who saw it.
18. They all knew that he was the man who sat daily at the temple beautiful begging for alms.
19. They, that’s the people’ were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to the lame man.

20. What does wonder and amazement look like?
21. The man was clinging to Peter and John as the people came to see this incredible miracle.
22. Was he clinging on because he was going to fall down or, because he didn't want them to get away?
23. Peter is perplexed by the crowd's response and asks them 'why are you amazed at what you have seen'.
24. Was that a fair question to ask them?
25. Peter saw the people were crediting the working of this miracle to them, he saw the potential for inappropriate worship being directed towards the wrong person.
26. There is a danger when God starts working through individuals, that that individual receives adoration and accolade that does not belong to them.
27. Peter re-instructs them that the focus of their worship should be directed towards God, who gave Jesus Christ to save the world.
28. Peter took the opportunity to preach the gospel having got the crowds attention.
29. He gave a chronological account of the way Jesus died at the hands of the Jews (remember the author of acts).
30. He said 'you preferred to save the life of a murderer called Barrabus than the Christ who God sent, our Lord and Saviour'.
31. Peter explains how this miracle took place in the man because of his faith in the name of Jesus.
32. Faith that came through Him – how did this faith come?
33. Faith comes through hearing the word, when Peter said 'in the name of Jesus rise up and walk', the man believed and received.
34. Peter's tact changed towards the people, there is compassion in his voice, understanding as to why they had allowed the Christ to be killed.
35. Peter chose to make reference to the prophets who spoke about how Jesus Christ the Saviour would die.
36. Peter calls the people to repentance, which is to turn to God, by trusting in the name of Jesus to be their Lord.
37. He explains to them how their sins can be wiped away, covered, annulled.
38. So that times of refreshing can come from the presence of the Lord, God sends His Christ.
39. Peter explains how Jesus Christ's return to heaven was necessary until all things have been restored. What things need to be restored?
40. He takes them back to the ancient prophets, to Moses, a key person in Israel's history, he reminds them of Moses prophesy, to listen to this Saviour who God sends.
41. Peter declares every soul who refuses God's Saviour will be destroyed completely.
42. All the prophets told of this time, said Peter, and you are the children who God desires to bless.
43. God raised so you could turn away from evil and walk with him.