

Acts 3

Written by Luke the beloved physician

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Introduction:

1. In the last chapter, the 12 Apostles received the power to perform miracles.
2. Now physician Luke focuses on one of the healing miracles because it led to a confrontation with the ruling religious class.
3. It also focuses on two of the leading apostles.

(Acts 3:1) Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service.

- **Peter and John** kept the regular Jewish hours of **prayer** and had a ready-made audience because so many residents of Jerusalem attended prayer at the Temple.
- Luke says it was three in the afternoon.

(Acts 3:2) As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple.

- This man that was to be healed was a well-known, local **man** and **lame** from **birth**. There could be no question about the authenticity of his condition. Sadly, some healings today are faked.
- **Begging** from those going to worship was probably more productive than **begging** on a street corner.
- The place of **begging** was the **Beautiful Gate**. **J. W. McGarvey** describes it:

The Beautiful gate of the temple, so called because of its magnificent folding doors, fifty feet high and forty feet wide, covered with gold and Corinthian brass, was the favorite pass-way into the temple.

Prophecies about Jesus: These were made 700 years before Jesus' time.	Given in Isaiah 53	Fulfilled in New Testament
He would not be widely believed.	1	John 1:10 - 12
He would not have the look of Majesty.	2	Luke 2:7
He would be despised and suffer.	3	Matthew 26:67-68; 27:39-43.
He would die for our weaknesses and sorrows and sins.	4	1 Peter 2:24
His pain and punishment would be for us.	5	Romans 4:25
All of us have sinned.	6	Romans 3:10-18
He would not respond to charges.	7	Matthew 26:63
He was to be unjustly condemned and killed.	8	Matthew 26:65- 68
He was associated with criminals and the rich at death.	9	Matthew 27:38 Matthew 27:57-60
He will be crushed - and yet live.	10	Luke 23:44-48 Luke 24:36-44
He will be the sin bearer.	11	1 Peter 2:24
He will be honored as a victorious soldier.	12	Philippians 2:8 - 11

Another writer said that it took 20 men to open these massive doors.

(Acts 3:3) When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. (4) Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!"

- Peter asked for the beggar's undivided attention. Probably most passers-by didn't want to look at beggars, just give them money and move on.
- So the man begging asked for money. Never a thought of being healed so he could earn his own money.

(Acts 3:5) The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. (6) But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

- These apostles were not men of wealth because they did not possess silver and gold.
- But Peter and John had authority: the name of Jesus Christ.
- The lame man was not a man of faith in Jesus, but the event produced faith in many onlookers.

(Acts 3:7) Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. (8) He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them.

- Notice the specific physical detail. A doctor is recording this: right hand, feet, ankles, jumped, walked. Peter took his hand and helped him up.
- The lame man gave God the credit for his healing by praising God.
- The healing was not gradual. These muscles had never functioned to allow walking, let alone jumping. He wasn't sent to physical therapy to begin training unused muscles.

families on earth will be blessed.' [Genesis 22:18] (26) When God raised up His servant, Jesus, He sent Him first to you people of Israel, to bless you by turning each of you back from your sinful ways."

- The Jewish listeners had descended from these prophets and were part of the national covenant God had with His people.
- Peter spoke of all the families of the earth being blessed. Luke did not let this reference to the future conversion of Gentiles go unnoticed.
- Israel was given the first opportunity to repent and turn to God. There were great blessings if they would turn from their sinful ways.

Old Testament Titles Used to Describe Jesus in Acts 3		
Verse	Title	O.T. Reference
6, 20	Christ Messiah	Psalm 2:2 "The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the LORD and against His anointed one." (Christ)
6	Nazarene	Zechariah 3:8 "Soon I am going to bring My servant, the Branch." (Some authorities believe that Nazareth means <i>branch</i> .)
13, 25	Servant	Isaiah 42:1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations."
14	Holy One	Isaiah 47:4 "Our Redeemer, whose name is the LORD of Heaven's Armies, is the Holy One of Israel."
14	Righteous One	Isaiah 24:16 "We hear songs of praise from the ends of the earth, songs that give glory to the Righteous One!"
15	Author of Life	Genesis 1:26 "Let Us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us." Jesus was part of the Godhead. (Father, Son and Spirit)
22	Prophet	Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him."

in it. It therefore did not bite into the papyrus like modern ink, but simply lay on top of it. To erase the writing a man simply wiped it away with a wet sponge; so God wipes out the sin of the forgiven man. It will affect the future; it will bring times of refreshing. Into life will come something which will be a strength in weakness and a rest in weariness.

- Peter and John had themselves been enjoying a time of **refreshment from the Lord**. See Acts 2:44-47.
- **He will send Jesus**. This may refer to the Lord's presence in the Spirit or to his second coming as in Acts 1:11.
- **The restoration of all things** may refer to the new nation of Israel that came to fruition in the church.

May God's peace and mercy be upon all who live by this principle; they are the new people of God. (Galatians 6:16)

(Acts 3:22) Moses said, 'The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people. Listen carefully to everything He tells you.' [Deuteronomy 18:15]
(23) Then Moses said, 'Anyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be completely cut off from God's people.'

- **Moses** was the nation's lawgiver. His law was foundational to the worship of God and development of the nation in centuries following.
- **Moses** had said there would be a **prophet** coming like himself. He was to be heeded or the rejecters were to be **completely cut off from God's people**. Those listening to Peter were the rejecters.

(Acts 3:24) "Starting with Samuel, every prophet spoke about what is happening today.

- But more than the great prophet Moses has spoken, **every prophet** since **Samuel** have spoken of **these days**.

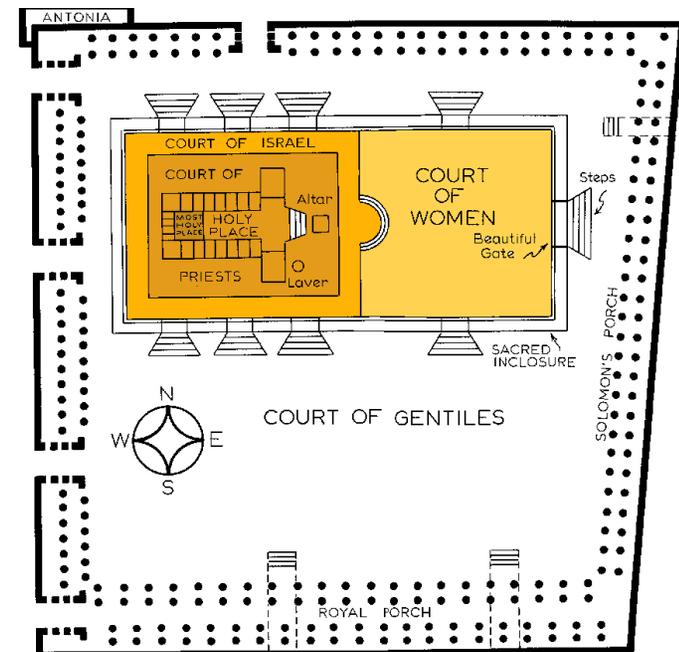
(Acts 3:25) You are the children of those prophets, and you are included in the covenant God promised to your ancestors. For God said to Abraham, 'Through your descendants all the

(Acts 3:9) All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. (10) When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded!

- The healing was persuasive to those nearby. They knew the **lame beggar** because he was local. There was no trickery.

(Acts 3:11) They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

- Again, when the Lord wanted the attention of potential believers, He got it. Pentecost had been a major case of this.
- The crowd was ready to listen. Peter quickly realized that he had listeners.
- **Solomon's Colonnade** or porch is on the right in the drawing below. This had a roof to protect from sun or rain and was accessible to Gentiles as well as Jews.



(Acts 3:12) Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd. "People of Israel," he said, "what is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness?

- Peter deflected the honor to the Lord. This illustrates the remarkable change that has come over Peter since the time he claimed he didn't know Jesus. The power of the Holy Spirit is working through this man.

(Acts 3:13) For it is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob--the God of all our ancestors—who has brought glory to His servant Jesus by doing this. This is the same Jesus whom you handed over and rejected before Pilate, despite Pilate's decision to release Him.

- Peter is clear that the national **God of Israel** is the One to be glorified. He was verifying common ground with his listeners.
- There are a number of Old Testament titles applied to Jesus in this chapter and they are summarized in a chart later in these notes. These titles carried much weight with Peter's Jewish listeners.
- The contrast is stark. God glorified **His servant Jesus**, but **you handed him over** to the Roman authorities and **rejected** Him before **Pilate** when **Pilate** wanted to **release Him**.
- Take note of the opposites in Peter's presentation, both in the verse and the ones following.

(Acts 3:14) You rejected this holy, righteous One and instead demanded the release of a murderer. (15) You killed the Author of life, but God raised Him from the dead. And we are witnesses of this fact!

- **"You rejected"** shows that the rulers alone were not responsible. The average worshiper was also to blame.
- The resurrection is in every sermon recorded in Acts. **God raised Him from the dead.**

- The evidence is that Peter and John saw Him after He was put to death. So the listeners are at odds with the **God** they were coming here to pray to!

(Acts 3:16) "Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed—and you know how crippled he was before. Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.

- In this case, the healers, not the healed, had the **faith**.
- Peter, like Luke earlier, affirms that the man was local and many in the crowd of listeners knew him. And the power to heal is attributed to Jesus.

(Acts 3:17) "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. (18) But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah—that He must suffer these things.

- While they were **ignorant** because they had refused the evidence, yet they were still responsible.
- While the **prophets had** told of a coming Messiah that would suffer, Isaiah tells the most complete story. See the related chart on page 9.

(Acts 3:19) Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. (20) Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and He will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. (21) For He must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through His holy prophets.

- While neither faith nor baptism is mentioned, accepting the resurrection of Christ (vs. 15) implies obedience to it by baptism. Those who now believed in the resurrection would be baptized with reference to it. Peter had discussed it in Acts 2:38.
- **Wiped away**—as entries in a creditor's record book. Hear **William Barclay:**

This repentance will have certain consequences. It will affect the past--sins will be wiped out. This is a vivid word. Ancient writing was upon papyrus and the ink had no acid