

Acts 3

- I. 3:1-10 The Miracle
- II. 3:11-26 The Message

- I. 3:1-10 The Miracle

Acts 2:43 (NKJV) ... many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

This is the story of one of the many wonders and signs that were done through the apostles.

- A. 3:1 *at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour* 9 hours after dawn or 3p.m.

Pointless Trivia: The church in the middle ages had specified prayer times much as the Jews did in these days (or Muslims do today). One of them was modeled after this one, at the ninth hour or 3pm.. They called it *nones* or *nonus*. Later they moved it up a few hours, because they decided that was more convenient, but the name *nones* stuck. In English, that turned into our word *noon*. So we talk about “12 noon” or the “afternoon” though noon isn't nine hours from anything special, neither from midnight nor from dawn.

- B. 3:2 *Lame from his mother's womb* The man had never walked, was *daily* in the temple and was now over 40 years old (4:22). Jesus must have seen him and passed him by.
 - i. I've heard people claim that Jesus healed every sick or lame person he ever encountered and that therefore, we should all always expect to be healed of everything right now.
 - ii. Praying for healing is good, but we should let God decide on the details:
 - a) He may decide to heal now, later (as with this man), or over time.
 - b) He may decide to use medicine or medical professionals in the process.
 - c) He may decide to wait until the Rapture when we receive that new body and never need to be healed again. (All such infirmities are a result of our fallen state.)
- C. 3:3-7 It was Peter's faith, not the man's, that initiated the miracle. (Those who propagate B. i. above often ignore this and blame the sick for lack of faith.)
 - i. The man only wanted money, both at first (v.3) and after Peter got his attention (v.5). He never asked to be healed, nor is there any indication he was hoping for that.
 - ii. Peter is the one all through who exercises his faith (3:4,6 & 7), even to the point of lifting the man up, at which point his feet and ankle bones received strength.
 - iii. In 1 Cor. 12:9 we read of a spiritual “gift of faith” from the Holy Spirit. I believe this is an example of one such gift. Peter was supernaturally given the faith to help this man.
- D. 3:8-9 The man immediately used the blessing he received and gave God the glory.
- E. 3:10 No one could deny the miracle. The man was well known in Jerusalem – as certain homeless people or beggars are in any city.

II. 3:11-26 The Message

A. Main Points of the Message:

- i. The Focus on Jesus
- ii. The Fulfillment of Prophecy
- iii. The Need for Repentance

B. A Brief Look at These Main Points

i. The Focus on Jesus

a) With respect to the healing, notice how Peter deemphasizes himself and puts all the emphasis upon Jesus.

- v.12 not our own power or godliness
- v.16 A faith in Christ, which comes through Christ.

b) Peter clearly points out their part in Christ's death.

- v.13 You delivered Him up and denied Him.
- v.14 You denied Him and asked for a murderer.
 - Without the Jews the Romans would not have crucified Christ; without the Romans the Jews could not have crucified Christ. Jew and Gentile worked together.
- v.15 You killed Him.
 - Each of us needs to recognize that His death was for us – for our sin – your sin and my sin. Without our sin, Christ would never have had to die.
- v.17 You did it in ignorance.

c) Peter makes sure He mentions the resurrection.

- v.15 You killed Him, but God raised Him up, and we are witnesses.

ii. The Fulfillment of Prophecy

- a) v.18 All the prophets
- b) v.21 All the prophets since the world began.
- c) v.24 All the prophets from Samuel and those who follow.

d) A few key prophecies Peter mentions:

- The suffering of Christ v.18
 - Genesis 22, Psalm 22, Isa 50:6, Isa 53:1-12, etc.

- The restoration of all things – the millennial kingdom age:

Romans 8:18-22 (NKJV) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

- If we listen carefully to what Peter tells them, we see that he is offering Israel the opportunity to hasten the return of Jesus by receiving Him on a national level. This has to happen before Jesus will return (Mat. 23:37-39; Romans 11:25-27).
 - We can raise the hypothetical question, *if* the Jews of that day would have received the gospel on a national level, *then* would Jesus have returned way back then? Maybe so, but obviously that *didn't happen!* (What if Adam...?)
- The prophet like Moses – See Deu 18:18-19
 - The danger of rejecting Christ: Let's not miss Peter's point. What he said then is still true today. Anyone who rejects Jesus will be utterly destroyed.
- The blessing promised in the unconditional covenant God made with Abraham.
 - Three parts: Land, Seed, Blessing (See Genesis 12:3)
 - The “land” and the “seed” are promises to Abraham personally and Israel nationally.
 - The blessing really has several parts:
 - “I will bless you.”
 - “You shall be a blessing.”
 - “In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

iii. The Need for Repentance

- a) Peter called on the crowd to repent in his first sermon (Acts 2:38)
- b) In doing so he was following the examples of both John the Baptist and Jesus.
 - See Matthew 3:2 (J the B) and Matthew 4:17 (Jesus).
- c) Repentance and conversion (v.19)
 - Repentance is what we do, conversion is what God does – when He makes us a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

- d) v.19 *blotted out* We're more than forgiven – the record of our sin is removed. This carries the idea of wiping ink off of a document. In ancient times the inks were not as durable and could normally be wiped away with a damp cloth. Peter is saying that God will blot out the record of our sin in the same way.
- e) v.26 The blessing of turning from sin. The word *iniquities* here means evil or wickedness, but has a root going back to annoyance, hardship, difficulty.
 - Not all difficulty is connected to sin, but some of it is, therefore it is a blessing for us to turn from it.
- f) v.19 Repentance is connected to refreshment. it's a cure for spiritual dryness:

Hosea 6:1,3 (NKJV) Come, and let us return to the LORD; For He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up. Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.