

### **Acts 3-4:31**

Acts 3: 1-10 The Lame Beggar Healed Acts 2:43 “And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.” The Jews observed three times of prayer – morning (9:00 am), afternoon (3pm), and evening (sunset). Around 3 p.m., the Mid-afternoon Prayer, about the ninth hour after dawn, a man lame from birth asks Peter and John for alms, a gift of money or goods given to the poor, and Peter directed his gaze at him, and said, “Look at us.” Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (in His authority), rise up and walk!” Peter grasped him by the right hand, and his feet and ankles became strong. And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and with them, he entered the temple walking and leaping and praising God.

Malachi 4:2 “But for you who fear My Name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.” Luke 5: 17-26 Jesus heals a paralytic. They went up on the roof, tore away the tiles, and lowered the man into the midst before Jesus. When He saw their faith, He said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

The healing of a lame man at the temple gate provides an example of an apostolic miracle and attracts a crowd to hear Peter’s second sermon. Actions lead to an example of what God is doing; word and deed go together.

Acts 3: 11-26 Peter Speaks in Solomon’s Portico On the Temple square, Peter addresses the people with a second message. The first was Jesus’ messianic status. This second message calls the Jews to repentance of their rejection of Jesus and focuses on the argument on the Torah. (Torah-the law of God as revealed to Moses and recorded in the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures – the Pentateuch) He charges the people with rejecting God’s Servant – Jesus. They denied Jesus, they delivered Him over to death, they rejected Him, he says, “You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.” Peter and John are witnesses of this truth, and by faith, in the name of Jesus, the lame man was healed. “His name” the name of Jesus means everything that is true about the person, and therefore, in a sense, the person Himself. The apostles were healing through the Holy Spirit’s power.

“You acted in ignorance” probably means they did not understand Jesus was the true Messiah and the true Son of God. Yet they are held responsible for His rejection. Acts 3:18-19 “But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out.” They are called to turn back to God instead of continuing to turn away from Him.

Peter promises three results from repentance: 1. The forgiveness of sins, 2. times of refreshing – the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and 3. That He may send the Christ – the Second Coming. It will be the time for the restoring of all things. The covenant with Abraham will be applied to all the families of the earth, first to the Jew, and then to the Gentile, by faith in God's Son, Jesus.

Acts 4: 1-22 Peter and John before the Council Provoked by Peter's sermon, the Sadducean leaders had the two apostles arrested and held for trial before the Sanhedrin. Three parts – 1. Arrest, 2. The hearing, and 3. The warning. The captain of the Temple was second in command to the High Priest. The Sadducees accepted only the first five books of the Bible (Pentateuch) and denied the resurrection. Most other Jews did believe in the resurrection. The Sadducees not only did not believe in the resurrection, but believed Peter's preaching affirming the resurrection of Jesus would lead to events the Romans would interpret as revolutionary.

The church is growing, beginning with 120 (1:15) then 3000 (2:41) and now the men alone were around 5000 (4:4). They were held over-night and tried in the morning. The Sanhedrin – the Jewish High Court was comprised of 71 members – 70 elders and the High Priest. Peter – filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 12: 11-12), *testifies that the lame man healed was healed by Jesus, whom they had ordered crucified.* Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we are saved." Peter spoke with boldness – *parresia*- Holy Spirit inspired courage and confidence. The Sanhedrin saw these uneducated men spoke with wisdom not learned from rabbinic schools or other training, but from God.

What shall we do with these men? They charged Peter and John not to speak again in the name of Jesus. "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4: 23-31 The Believers pray for Boldness "And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your Word with all boldness, while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy Servant Jesus." The Lord filled them with the Holy Spirit and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.