

# Scripture Lesson Text

**ACTS 3:1** Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being* the ninth hour.

**2** And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

**3** Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

**4** And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

**5** And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

**6** Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

**7** And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

**8** And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

**9** And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

**10** And they knew that it was he

which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

**11** And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

**12** And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

**13** The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go.

**14** But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

**15** And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

**16** And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

## NOTES

# A Lame Man Healed

Lesson Text: Acts 3:1-16

Related Scriptures: Acts 3:17—4:22; Luke 5:17-26

TIME: A.D. 31

PLACE: Jerusalem

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**GOLDEN TEXT**—"Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk" (Acts 3:6).

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## *Lesson Exposition*

### **HELP ANTICIPATED—Acts 3:1-5**

**Leaders praying (Acts 3:1).** While 1:13 mentions the apostles who were present in the upper room, only three of the original Twelve are mentioned again in Acts. They are "Peter and John" (3:1) and James (12:1-2).

The events of Acts 3 likely occurred shortly after the day of Pentecost. Jewish Christians continued to worship in the temple and participate in some of its rituals.

There were two special times of prayer each day, the latter offered at the ninth hour, or three in the afternoon. While Peter and John could have prayed anywhere and been heard by God, they evidently believed that corporate worship was important.

**Lame from birth (Acts 3:2).** Although unnamed, the man who is the central figure in the story had never walked in his entire life; in fact, he had been in this condition for over forty years (4:22).

Because he was crippled, the man had to be carried to the temple gate each day for the purpose of begging. Since the kind of social programs we take for granted did not exist in an-

cient times, the only recourse a disabled person had was to rely on the mercy of passersby.

**Look with faith (Acts 3:3-5).** The crippled man had probably learned that the only way he was going to receive help was to ask for it. He thus cried out to Peter and John, hoping to receive some small gift of charity from them.

They stopped, fixed their gaze on this poor soul, and said, "Look on us" (vs. 4).

Having been a beggar for many years, the man likely thought he knew what was about to happen; namely, a coin would be tossed his way. He was about to receive something far more valuable than any amount of money.

### **HEALING ACCOMPLISHED— Acts 3:6-11**

**Wonderful name (Acts 3:6).** Unlike some religious charlatans today, Peter could honestly declare, "Silver and gold have I none." This does not mean that ministers and missionaries should live in poverty, but they should not be serving the Lord for financial gain, either (1 Cor. 9:14; Titus 1:7).

What Peter had to give the lame man would do far more for him than

a few coins could ever do.

Like the gift of salvation (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9), healing from the Lord is also a gift. This gift was offered “in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth” (Acts 3:6). Although Peter’s apostolic powers would be evident in what would happen, he took no credit for the miracle that was about to occur. It was through the power of Christ—not Peter—that healing would come.

**Walking, leaping, praising (Acts 3:7-8).** Since the man did not expect to be healed, he apparently made no move to obey the command to “rise up and walk” (vs. 6). Peter then extended his hand and lifted him up. It was not his faith that opened the door for the miracle; it was Peter’s.

As with other biblical miracles, the healing was instantaneous and complete.

**Wonder and amazement (Acts 3:9-11).** Since the healed man was no stranger to frequent visitors to the temple, “all the people saw him walking and praising God.” They all knew they had seen a miracle. The place of their gathering was Solomon’s Porch, a covered colonnade on the eastern side of the temple area.

### **HOLINESS AFFIRMED— Acts 3:12-16**

**Christ glorified (Acts 3:12-13).** Peter was quick to point out that this miracle was performed through the power of Christ, who was glorified through the healing of the man. Peter also made it clear that Jesus was the Son of the God of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**Sinners condemned (Acts 3:14-16).** Peter then pointed back to Jesus’ crucifixion and criticized the crowd for calling out for the blood of Christ. The reference to the “murderer” (Acts 3:14) alludes to Barabbas, described as an insurrectionist (Mark 15:7), a

murderer (Luke 23:19), and a robber (John 18:40).

Since Christ is the “Prince of life” (Acts 3:15), it was not possible to keep Him in the tomb.

Since the healed man was standing there with Peter and John, there could be no doubt concerning the power of faith in the Son of God.

Peter then called upon the multitudes to repent and be converted so that their sins could be blotted out (vs. 19). Although we are not told how many responded, the number of believing men now increased to five thousand (4:4).

—John A. Owston.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. How many of the original twelve apostles are mentioned after Acts 1? Who were they?
2. At what time did Peter and John go to the temple to pray? Why did they go there for prayer?
3. Where was the lame man laid each day? Why was he placed there?
4. What did the crippled man expect to receive from the apostles?
5. How did Peter respond to the man’s request? Does this mean church workers should be poor?
6. Why did Peter offer the man healing “in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth” (Acts 3:6)?
7. Why did Peter and John have to help the man up?
8. What was Solomon’s Porch?
9. What fact about Christ did Peter specifically make clear to the crowd?
10. Who was the murderer Peter alluded to in verse 14?

—John A. Owston.

## PRACTICAL POINTS

1. It is often in our normal routines that God gives us our greatest opportunities (Acts 3:1).
2. God knows what you need better than even you do (vss. 2-3).
3. A Christian's words may not bring miraculous healing, but God can use them to impact people for eternity (vss. 4-7).
4. The working of God in people's lives should always result in God-honoring praise (vss. 8-10).
5. People are only God's instruments; they should be careful not to take credit for His work (vss. 11-12).
6. Biblical proclamation requires that the truth be shared without compromise (vss. 13-16).

—Don Kakavecos.

## RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

1. How can a person recognize and respond to God's interruptions in his or her normal routines? Why is doing this so important?
2. How does the request of the lame man illustrate his perceived needs? Why do we sometimes need to meet people's perceived needs in order to share with them what they truly need?
3. How did the obedience of the man, the faith of Peter and John, and the power of God work together in this miracle?
4. How does the boasting of many present-day self-proclaimed miracle workers serve to discredit them (cf. Acts 3:12-16)? Can we be guilty of the same sin? How?

—Don Kakavecos.

## Golden Text Illuminated

**“Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk” (Acts 3:6).**

From the time we are children, we face criticism if people think we are asking for too much. It is true, of course, that God does not want us to have a selfish and demanding spirit, but it is also true that He delights in receiving and answering our requests (cf. Matt. 7:7-11; Phil. 4:6). Our problem often is not that we ask for too much but that we ask for too little.

The lame man at the temple gate was probably hoping only for a small gift, perhaps enough to get through another day. What he would receive was a transformed life.

Peter looked at the lame man and attracted his attention. He knew what the beggar wanted; so he prefaced his gift by declaring that he did not possess what the world calls riches. But if the beggar felt a twinge of disappointment as he heard this, it did not last for long!

Reflecting the fact that he was the follower of a generous Lord, Peter expressed his willingness to freely give that which he did have.

Speaking with the authority of Christ, Peter commanded the lame man to walk. The reference to Jesus' hometown would eliminate any doubt concerning who Peter meant.

As we contemplate this miracle, may our hearts be drawn to our powerful yet loving Saviour. He has the authority to change our lives, and He has the desire to do so as well.

—Stephen H. Barnhart