



Acts 3:1-10

The First Healing...

Facts...

- ***Jewish Day....6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.***
- ***Devout Jews Had 3 Specific Times to pray in the Day...9 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 3 p.m.***
- ***Prayer was Special When Offered in the Temple...***
- ***Although Peter and John Were Freed from the Customs and Traditions of the Religious Pharisees and Sadducees...They Still Observed the Sabbath and Times to Pray in the Temple***
 - * ***Although a New Faith Had Come to Them, They Did Not Use It as an Excuse for a License to Break the Law***
 - * ***They Were Aware That the New Faith and the Old Discipline Could Walk Hand in Hand***
- ***A Custom in the East Was for Beggars and the Handicapped to Sit at the Entrance to the Temple or Shrine***
- ***Peter and John Centered In On This Beggar...Why?***
Because the Holy Spirit Was Going before them...and, they listened and Responded to the Holy Spirit's prompting.

Remember...Jesus Pointed To and Personally Personified God....The Holy Spirit Points To and Personally Personifies Jesus!

They Are Three in One...Like Water, Ice and Vapor...Different Form, Same Substance!

**Although They Have Different Duties and Responsibilities,
Their Objectives Are The Same...**

**Bring the Children In...Bring the Bride to the
Groom...Bring Them Home to Live As One Having All
Things In Common.**

**Salvation....God Planned It, Jesus Provided It, and the
Holy Spirit Prompts and Promotes It!**

All For the Common Good of Mankind...God is Love!

What are the Prerequisites for Healing?

- **There is a Person that has a Problem (Physical, Mental, Emotional, Spiritual)**
- **There is a Need...a definite need.**
- **There is a Spirit of Healing at the Point of the Miracle.**
- **There is a recipient of the miracle.**
- **There is a believer who takes action...an agent whom God Uses.**
- **There is Jesus, the Healer....the Anointed One.**
- **There is a God, the Father!**

What is the Natural Response of the One Being Healed?

Notice that the beggar praised God...and did it in front of all those in the Temple.

Do you think the beggar was a believer...a follower of Jesus...a saved person when he was praising God?

Miracles...Recorded In Acts

- **At Least 18 Specific Supernatural Events Recorded in Acts**
- **Another 10 Occasions where there is a general reference to Miracles occurring....**
(An Average of One Reference for Each of the 28 Chapters)
- **Supernatural Events Seems to Occur Most When the Gospel is Proclaimed for the First Time...In a Particular Location or to a Particular Group**

- *Performed Mainly By the Leadership of the Church*
- *In Combination With Teaching, They Result in Thousands Discovering Jesus (i.e. Acts 13:9-12)*

Critics May Disparage the Evidential Value of Miracles...but, the Fact Remains that God Made Abundant Use of Miracles in Giving Christianity A Start in the World.

Take Miracles Out of the Book of Acts, and there is Little Left!

Miracles Form a Very Conspicuous Part of the Book of Acts...

- *Starts With Visible Appearances of Jesus, After His Death, to His Disciples (1:3)*
- *Before the Disciples Eyes, His Ascension to Heaven (1:9)*
- *On Pentecost, A Miraculous Visible Manifestation of the Holy Spirit in Tongues as of Fire (2:3)*
- *Wonders and Signs Done By the Apostles (2:41)*
- *Healing of the Lame Man, at the Temple Gate (3:7-11)*
- *God Answers Prayer by an Earthquake (4:11)*
- *Ananias and Sapphira Died by a Stroke from the Lord (5:5-10)*
- *Signs and Wonders by the Apostles, Continued (5:12)*
- *Multitudes Were Healed by Peter's Shadow (5:15-16)*
- *Prison Doors Opened by an Angel (5:19)*
- *Stephen Wrought Great Wonders and Signs (6:8)*
- *Philip Did Great Miracles and Signs (8:6, 7, 13)...Multitudes Believed.*
- *Saul Converted by a Direct Voice from Heaven (9:3-9)*
- *When Ananias spoke the Word, scales fell from Saul's eyes (9:17, 18)*
- *Peter healed Aeneas at Lydda and the whole region was converted to Christ (9:32-35)*
- *Peter raised Dorcas from the Dead at Joppa and many believed on the Lord (9:40-42)*
- *Cornelius was converted by the Appearance of an Angel, and there was speaking in tongues (10:3, 46)*
- *A Voice from God Sent Peter to Cornelius (10:9-22)...and this convinced the Jews that Peter was Right (11:15, 18)*
- *A Prison Gate Opened of its own accord (12:10)*

- *The Blinding of a Sorcerer led the Proconsul of Cyprus to Believe (13:11, 12)*
- *Paul Did Signs and Wonders in Iconium, and a Multitude Believed (14:3, 4)*
- *The Healing of the Cripple at Lystra made the Multitudes Think that Paul was a god (14:8-18)*
- *In Philippi, Paul Healed a Soothsayer...and an Earthquake Converted the Jailer (16:16- 34)*
- *12 Men Spoke in Tongues at Ephesus (19:6)*
- *Special Miracles Done By Paul (19:11, 12)*
- *Paul Raised a Young Man from the Dead (20:8-12)*
- *In Melita, the Healing of Paul's Hand from the Viper's Bite(28:3-6)*
- *Paul Healed All on the Island (Melita) that had diseases (28:8,9)*

Acts 3:11-26

Three (3) Dominant Notes of Early Christian Preaching (Peter):

The Early Preachers Always Stressed:

1. *The Crucifixion Was the Greatest Crime in Human History*

They tried to stab men's minds with the realization of the sheer crime of the Cross....like, "Men and Women, look what sin can do!"

2. *The Vindication of the Resurrection.*

Fact...without the Resurrection the Church would never have come into being. The Resurrection was proof that Jesus was Indestructible and was Lord of Life and Death.

3. *The Power of the Risen Lord.*

The early Preachers never regarded themselves as the source of power but only as channels of power. They were well aware of their limitations...but they also knew that there was no limitation to what the Risen Lord could do through them and with them.

In Jesus' Name...All Things Are Possible!

The Early Preacher's Sermon Notes---Basically Painted the Same Picture that Peter Did:

1. *Mercy and Warning was Combined in the Sermon.*

It was ignorance that the people crucified Jesus...but, ignorance is no longer an excuse. The terrifying responsibility of knowledge sounds throughout the New

Testament. “If you were blind, you would have not guilt; but now that you say, ‘we see,’ your guilt remains.” (John 9:41). To have seen the full light of the revelation of God is the greatest of privileges, but it is also the greatest of responsibilities.

2. The Obligation That the Knowledge that Jesus Is the Messiah Brings is the Obligation to Repent and to Turn.

The two words go closely together. Repent might simply mean to change one’s mind; and it is an easier thing to do...this changing of one’s mind than to change one’s life. This changing of one’s mind must issue a turning away from the old way and beginning a new way...the way.

3. Repentance Will Have Certain Consequences.

It will affect the past; sins will be wiped out. In ancient times writing was upon papyrus and the ink had no acid in it...therefore, the ink did not bite (soak) 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 wipe out the sin of the forgiven man. It will affect the future; it will bring a time of refreshing. Into life will come something which will be a strength in weakness and a rest in weariness.

4. They Spoke of the Christ Coming Again.

Whatever this means...it certainly means that history is going somewhere.

5. They Let the People Know that All that has Happened Has Been Foretold.

6. They Reminded the Jews of Their National Privilege...God’s Chosen People.

7. That Very Special Privilege Brings a Very Special Duty...Not of Special Honor but of Special Service.

We, As God’s Special Children, Joint Heirs With Jesus, Grafted into the Body of Christ...Grafted in As Children of the Most High God...Whereby We Can Call Him, “Abba, Father”...Are Not Grafted to Special Honor...We Are Grafted into Special Service.

Are you a Soldier of Christ...Ready to Take the Message around the World?

Acts 4:1-37

The Arrest....1-4

Peter and John was Arrested for:

- *Teaching the People*
- *Proclaiming Through “Jesus” (A Name That Was Freshly on Everyone’s Mind)*
- *Proclaiming “The Resurrection of the Dead”*

Pertinent Facts

- *Arrested in the Temple Area (Solomon’s Colonade)*
- *A Part of the Temple Area Thronged with People (Gentiles, Men Women, Boys and Girls...people from every nation)*
- *Corner on the outside of the Court of Gentiles*
- *The Priests, The Sadducees and the Captain of the Temple (The Sagan...High Priest’s right-hand man; in charge oversight of the good order of the Temple)*
 - * *Sadducees. Wealthy, from the Aristocratic class; rich and had great influence.*

Were annoyed for two reasons:

1. *Did not believe in the resurrection from the dead*
2. *They were collaborationist...friendly terms with the Romans in order to retain their wealth, comfort, prestige and power...their status would diminish with the Roman Government if civil disorder was amongst them.*

Before the Sanhedrin....5-12

Sanhedrin...the Supreme Court of the Jews

- *They Had the Right of Arrest*
- *They Could Not Pass the Death Sentence...except in a case of a Gentile trespassing on the inner court of the Temple.*
- *71 members*
- *High Priest was the ex officio president*
- *Sanhedrin Council...made up of:*
 - * *Sadducees...*
 - * *Scribes...Experts in the traditional law*
 - * *Pharisees...Fanatics for the law*
 - * *Elders...Represented men in the community*
 - * *Priestly family members...sometimes called the Chief Priests*

Audience was made up of the wealthiest, the most intellectual and the most powerful in the Jewish Community. The very court which had condemned Jesus to Death.

Here stands Peter, the Galilean fisherman, standing as their judge instead of the victim...Peter knew he was taking his life in his hands.

2 Kinds of Courage:

1. *Reckless Courage...which is scarcely aware of the dangers it is facing*
2. *Higher, Brave Courage...which knows the peril in which it stands and refuses to be daunted.*

Peter demonstrated the Brave Courage that comes from being anointed...and having been with the one whom he knew would stand with him.

No Loyalty Save to God ...13-22

The Enemy's Attack and the Christian Defense

- *Enemy's Attack (The Sanhedrin Court)*
Contempt...Ignorant and Unlearned
Threats...look at what it got Jesus
- *Christian's Defense (Peter and John)*
Unanswerable Facts
Utter Loyalty to God
Personal Experience with Jesus Christ

The Triumphant Return...23-31

They had certain convictions:

- *Conviction of the Power of God*
- *Conviction of the Futility of Man's Rebellion*
- *Conviction of the Remembrance of Jesus*
- *Conviction of Prayer*
- *Conviction of the Gift of the Holy Spirit*

All Things in Common...32-37

Two Things Noted:

1. *They Had an Intense Sense of Responsibility for Each Other*
2. *They Had a Real Desire to Share All They Had*

Note: This Sharing was Not the Result of Legislation...It was Spontaneous. Not when the law compels us to share...but, when the heart moves us to share.

Prayer was supremely important

The Witness of the Word was Extremely Important

The Culmination of it all...was the love of the brotherhood.