

# Powerful People Are Full Of Amazement Not Amusement

Acts 3

**BETTER**

Warren W. Wiersbe, [The Bible Exposition Commentary](#), vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 411–415.

## **Acts 3:1–11** (NKJV)

1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, 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 from those who entered the temple;

3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

6 Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: 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 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.

# We Are Amazing People

- Because we are filled with the wonderful power of the Holy Spirit we are amazing people who trust God to do amazing things through us in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!
- We are not ashamed of Jesus!

# History

- The believers were still attached to the temple and to the traditional hours of prayer (*Ps. 55:17; Dan. 6:10; Acts 10:30*).
- Keep in mind that Acts 1–10 describes a gradual transition from Israel to the Gentiles and from “Jewish Christianity” (*note Acts 21:20*) to the “one body” made up of both Jews and Gentiles.

# History

- It took several years before many of the Jewish believers really understood the place of the Gentiles in God's program, and this understanding did not come without its conflicts.

# The Contrast Between Acts 2 And 3 Is Interesting:

- Peter the preacher—Peter the personal worker;
- multitudes—one poor man;
- ministry resulting in blessing—ministry resulting in arrest and persecution.
- The events in Acts 3 are an illustration of the last phrase in Acts 2:47, showing us how the Lord added to His church daily.



# The Contrast Between Acts 2 And 3 Is Interesting:

- While the Holy Spirit is not named in this chapter, He was certainly at work in and through the Apostles, performing His ministry of glorifying Jesus Christ (*John 16:14*).

# Evidence of Spiritual Ministry

- Peter noticing the lame beggar is of many evidences of the Spirit's ministry.
- No doubt thousands of people were near the temple (*Acts 4:4*), and perhaps scores of beggars, but the Lord told Peter to heal a lame man lying at the Beautiful Gate.
- There were nine gates that led from the court of the Gentiles into the temple itself.
- This has to be spirit led, there are no accidents with God. It is all intentional! The spirit will not allow you to walk by certain people!

# Look At Us!

## Acts 3:3–4 (NKJV)

3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.”

- As children of God who are living, and walking in the name of Jesus Christ we should not be ashamed of people looking at us! Our lives should match who we are!

# Look At Us!

## Proverbs 10:9 (NKJV)

He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.

## Colossians 1:9–10 (NKJV)

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;  
10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

- The giving of alms was an important part of the Jewish faith, so beggars found it profitable to be near the temple.
- Since the believers had pooled their resources (*Acts 2:44–45*), the two Apostles had no money to give; but money was not what the man needed most.
- Sometimes we give people money only for them to leave us alone or only for them to be back in the same condition to ask again.
- We enable them to stay in a condition when God desires to see them delivered.

# Give People What They Need!

- He needed salvation for his soul and healing for his body, and money could provide neither.
- Through the power of the name of Jesus, the beggar was completely healed; and he was so happy and excited that he acted like a child, leaping and praising God.

# The Illustration Of What Salvation Is Like

- He was born lame, and all of us are born unable to walk so as to please God.
- Our father Adam had a fall and passed his lameness on to all of his descendants (*Rom. 5:12–21*).

## **Romans 5:12** (NKJV)

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—



## **Romans 5:15–16** (NKJV)

15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned. For the judgment which came from one offense resulted in condemnation, but the free gift which came from many offenses resulted in justification.

# The Illustration Of What Salvation Is Like

- The man was also poor, and we as sinners are bankrupt before God, unable to pay the tremendous debt that we owe Him (*Luke 7:36–50*).

# The Illustration Of What Salvation Is Like

## Luke 7:47–50 (NKJV)

47 Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little.”

48 Then He said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.”

49 And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?”

50 Then He said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.”

# The Illustration Of What Salvation Is Like

- He was “outside the temple,” and all sinners are separated from God, no matter how near to the door they might be.
- The man was healed wholly by the grace of God, and the healing was immediate (*Eph. 2:8–9*).

# The Illustration Of What Salvation Is Like

## **Ephesians 2:8–9** (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

# The Illustration Of What Salvation Is Like

- He gave evidence of what God had done by “walking, and leaping, and praising God” (*Acts 3:8*) and by publicly identifying himself with the Apostles, both in the temple (*Acts 3:11*) and in their arrest (*Acts 4:14*).

## Acts 3:8 (NKJV)

So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

## **Acts 3:11** (NKJV)

Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.

## **Acts 4:14** (NKJV)

And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

- Now that he could stand, there was no question where this man stood!

# People Should Be Amazed By God's Works

## Acts 3:10–11 (NKJV)

**10** Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

**11** Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.



# Amazed

- The Gk. *ékstasis*, translated “amazement” in Mk. 5:42; Lk. 5:26; Acts 3:10, indicates that the people were “beside themselves” with astonishment, unable to comprehend fully what they witnessed (cf. Eng. “ecstasy”)—in each case a miraculous healing, of a girl who had “died,” of a paralytic, and of a lame man.
- Geoffrey W. Bromiley, ed., [“Amaze; Amazement,” \*The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised\* \(Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979–1988\), 109.](#)

# Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

## **Matthew 9:6–8** (NKJV)

6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

7 And he arose and departed to his house.

8 Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

- It is not that they did not understand what was said, they did not understand what was done.
- There is different!
- God's work through us ought to leave some people wondering how did they do it!
- Some will wonder for good reason, and others not so good!