

“BE A BOLD WITNESS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD”

ACTS 3:1 – 26 (NKJV)

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ACTS 3:1 – 3 (NKJV)

A Lame Man Healed

3 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.

3

PETER & JOHN

In **Luke 5:9 – 10**, Peter and John were partners who fished together.

⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also *were* James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”



4

PETER & JOHN

In **Luke 22:8**, Peter and John prepared the last Passover for Jesus.

⁸ And He sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat.”



5

PETER & JOHN

In **John 20:2 – 4**, Peter and John ran to the tomb on the first Easter Sunday morning together.

² Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

³ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴ So they both ran together.




6

PETER & JOHN

In **Acts 8:14 – 16**, Peter and John ministered together to the Samaritans who believed on Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.



7

PRAYER TIME...

- The Jews gathered together at the temple in the morning, afternoon, and evening to pray.
- In our text, the Jews were gathering in the temple for prayer. On this occasion, Peter and John were going together and entering into the temple gate named “Beautiful” at 3pm – the 9th hour of the day.



8

THE “LAME” MAN

- Unable to walk or had limited use of his legs since he was born. Every day, he was placed at the temple to beg alms.
- Unable to walk without difficulty as the result of an injury or illness that affected his legs or feet
- Unable to move from one place to another without assistance
- Dependent on others --- and maybe couldn't even crawl on his own
- He probably always had to be carried or pushed – was never able to fully take care of himself.
- He had a condition all of his life that prevented him from getting to where he wanted to go on his own.

9

THE “LAME” MAN

- Dependent on others to help meet many of his own needs
- He perhaps lived with the stress and anxiety of how am I going to get where I need to go and get what I need to survive this day.
- Ashamed, sad, or had feelings of hopelessness because he was dependent and not independent
- He could have also been full of faith, bold, and without pride because that would prevent him from asking for alms daily
- Daily, he was exposed to experiencing rejection, humiliation, and negative words, facial expressions, and gestures



10

ASKING FOR ALMS

- Alms are money or goods given to those in need as an act of charity.
- “Alms” comes from a Greek word meaning “pity, mercy.” In its original sense, when you give alms, you are dispensing mercy.
- Almsgiving is a long-standing practice within among the Jews. “Whoever is kind to the needy honors God” (Proverbs 14:31; see also Proverbs 19:17; 21:13; 22:9; and 29:7).





LEVITICUS 25:35 – 38

Jews, Jesus, and His disciples were accustomed to giving money to the poor (John 12:6), and believers are to “remember the poor” (Galatians 2:10).

³⁵ ‘If one of your brethren becomes poor, and falls into poverty among you, then you shall help him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you. ³⁶ Take no usury or interest from him; but fear your God, that your brother may live with you. ³⁷ You shall not lend him your money for usury, nor lend him your food at a profit. ³⁸ I *am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to give you the land of Canaan *and* to be your God.



12

The word *alms* is used nine times in five chapters of the King James Version of the New Testament. Matthew 6:1-4 in the King James version mentions alms or almsgiving four times:



13

Matthew 6:1 – 4 (KJV) mentions alms or almsgiving four times:

“Take heed that ye **do not your alms before men, to be seen of them:** otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore **when thou doest thine alms**, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But **when thou doest alms**, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That **thine alms** may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.”

14

ALMSGIVING

- Almsgiving = “charitable deeds”, “good deeds”, “your righteousness”
- Jesus taught that **almsgiving is for God to see, not to show off before others**. Those giving out of their love for God are not to announce their giving or draw attention to it.
- Clearly what Jesus forbids is not publicity in performing good deeds, which is often necessary and proper, but ostentatious (designed to impress or attract notice) publicity, for the purpose of attracting attention. (The Greek conveys distinctly this idea of purpose, and the verb for "to be seen" is the one from which comes our word "theater.")

15

NEW MERCIES GIVES ALMS

- **Noble Warriors** – visit prisoners nearly every Wednesday and Thursday of every year
- **Outreach Ministry** - shares the word of God, the plan of salvation, and show the love of Christ every month in the community and to those living in extended stays
- **Mercy Seed** – serve weekly in the rain, sleet, or cold, to feed those in need of food or to lighten their load and supplement everyone's needs
- New Mercies gives annually to **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital**, and many from our church give to them on a regular basis.
- Our members **donate** school supplies, blankets, water, coats, and toiletries to those in need.



16

The root of our giving should never be for others to see and give us praise...It should be out of obedience to the word and spirit of God, to show the love of Christ, to draw others to Him, and to bring God glory.



17

ACTS 4 – 10 (NKJV)

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.**

18

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19

WHAT CAN “YOU” GIVE?

The two Apostles had no money to give; but money was not what the lame man needed most. 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.

God gives us all something to give to others!!



20

WE WERE & ARE “LAME”

Although, we are able to walk, we can identify with the lame man. Sometimes we are seeking what we need least and unaware of what we needed the most.

- He was born lame, and we are **born unable to walk in a way that pleases God**, unable to get right with God by our own efforts, strength, and works; unable to do anything without the grace, mercy, and compassion of God.
- Our father, **Adam**, had a fall and **passed his lameness on us**.



21

WE WERE & ARE “LAME”

- The man was also poor, and we as sinners **were bankrupt before God**, unable to pay the tremendous sin debt that we owed Him (Luke 7:36–50).
- 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). Just as when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we are saved from hell and eternal damnation and **immediately our salvation is secured**.

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24

ACTS 3:11 – 13 (NKJV)

Preaching in Solomon's Portico

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. ¹² So when **Peter** saw *it*, he responded to the people: **“Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?”** ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, **whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate**, when he was determined to let *Him* go.

25

ACTS 3:14 – 17 (NKJV)

¹⁴ But you denied the **Holy One** and the **Just**, and **asked for a murderer to be granted** to you, ¹⁵ and **killed the Prince of life**, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. ¹⁶ And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

¹⁷ “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

26


PETER'S BOLD RESPONSE

- The healing of the lame beggar drew a crowd around the three men on Solomon's porch.
- Peter saw that they were amazed, and he said, **“Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?”**
- In his sermon at Pentecost in chapter 2, Peter had to refute the accusation that the believers were drunk. In this sermon, at the temple, he had to refute the notion that he and John had healed the man by their own power. Peter immediately had to check their source and identified the source of the miracle as Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

27

ACTS 3:17 – 21 (NKJV)

¹⁷ “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did *it* in ignorance, as *did* also your rulers. ¹⁸ But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.



28

ACTS 3:22 – 24 (NKJV)

²² For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. ²³ And it shall be *that* every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ ²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.



29

ACTS 3:25 – 26 (NKJV)

²⁵ You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ ²⁶ **To you first,** God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one *of you* from your iniquities.”



30

WE WERE & ARE “LAME”

- The Spirit certainly gave Peter boldness as he reminded the Jews of the way they had treated Jesus. They had denied Him and delivered Him up to be crucified. They had asked for a guilty man, Barabbas, to be set free so that an innocent person might be crucified!
- In order to convince them of their crimes, Peter used several different names and titles for our Lord to convince them that this was no ordinary man that they had handed over to the Romans to crucify!
- God had glorified His Son by raising Him from the dead and taking Him back to heaven. The enthroned Christ had sent His Holy Spirit and was working through His church. **The healed beggar was proof that Jesus was alive.**

31

CONVICTION & CONVERSION

There must be conviction before a sinner can experience conversion.

- Unless a patient is convinced that he is sick, he will never go to the doctor, never accept the diagnosis, or take the treatment.
- Peter turned the temple into a courtroom and laid all the evidence out for everybody to see.
- The lame man was healed by their Messiah that they had crucified!!



32

PETER KNEW HIS AUDIENCE

In Peter's boldness to present Jesus, He used language that they understood.

- He used references to God that they knew.
- He spoke up their fathers.
- He spoke about the covenants that they were familiar with.
- He spoke about the prophets that they knew about.
- He used things that he knew to convince them of Jesus as the Messiah.



33

PETER WAS UNDERSTANDING & INSTILLED HOPE

In Peter's boldness to present Jesus, He was also understanding.

- **Peter responded with understanding and did not leave them without hope.** In fact, he almost seemed to defend them by pointing out that they had **acted in ignorance** (Acts 3:17) while at the same time they had fulfilled the Word of God (Acts 3:18).



34

DELIBERATE SIN & IGNORANCE

In the Old Testament Law, there is a difference between deliberate sins and sins of ignorance (see Lev. 4–5; Num. 15:22–31).

- The person who sinned presumptuously was a rebel against God and was guilty of great sin. He was to be “cut off” from his people (Num. 15:30–31), which could mean excommunication and even death. The defiant “high-handed” sinner was condemned,
- But the person who sinned without deliberate intent was given opportunity to repent and seek God’s forgiveness. Ignorance does not remove the sinner’s guilt, but it does mitigate the circumstances.



35

EMPOWERED PETER

- Jesus in Luke 23:34 prayed, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”, and God had answered that prayer. Instead of sending judgment, He sent the Holy Spirit to empower His church and to convict lost sinners.
- Having announced the crime, presented the evidence, and explained the nature of their sin, Peter then offered them pardon! (Acts 3:19–26) Peter was the prosecuting attorney who became the defense attorney and afterwards the pardoning judge! His goal was to encourage his people to trust Christ and experience His gracious salvation.

36

REPENT...

- **First of all, *they had to repent of their sins*** (see Acts 2:38; 5:31; 17:30), which means to have a change of mind about themselves, their sin, and Jesus Christ. **Repentance is much more than “feeling sorry for your sins.”**
- **Second, they had to *be converted*, “to turn again” and exercise saving faith in Jesus Christ.** The biblical message is “repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21), and the two go together. Unless we turn from our sins, we cannot put saving faith in Jesus Christ. Evangelism presents to the sinner both repentance and faith.

37

REPENTANCE

- “It means feeling sorry enough to quit!”
- False sorrow for sin could be mere regret (“I’m sorry I got caught!”) or remorse (“I feel terrible!”); and such feelings have a tendency to pass away.
- Repentance is not the same as “doing penance,” as though we have to make a special sacrifice to God to prove that we are sincere.

True repentance is admitting that what God says is true, and because it is true, to change our mind about our sins and about the Savior.



38

REPENTANCE

- The message of repentance was not new to the Jews, for John the Baptist and Jesus had preached it (Matt. 3:2; 4:17).
- Repentance is a gift from God (Acts 11:18) and it is **the heart's response to the convicting ministry of the Spirit of God** (Acts 26:20). The person who sincerely repents will have little problem putting his faith in the Savior.



39

...& BE CONVERTED

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40

THE PROMISE

- Peter boldly announced what would happen if they repented and turned to Jesus Christ: “in order that your sins may be blotted out, in order that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, in order that He may send Jesus Christ” (literal translation). There was a promise for the individual (sins forgiven) and a promise for the nation (times of spiritual refreshing).



41

A CALL FOR NATIONAL REPENTANCE

- Peter was actually calling for *national repentance*, for the nation through its leaders had denied its Messiah and condemned Him to die. **The declaration is that, if the nation repented and believed, the Messiah would return and establish the promised kingdom. The nation did not repent—and certainly God knew this would happen—so the message eventually moved from the Jews to the Samaritans (Acts 8) and to the Gentiles (Acts 10).**

PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

1. God is long-suffering with lost sinners.

The leaders of Israel had rejected the ministry of John the Baptist (Matt. 21:23–27) and the ministry of Jesus, and yet God gave them another opportunity to repent and be saved. They had denied and slain their own Messiah, and yet God patiently held back His judgment and sent His Spirit to deal with them. God's people today need patience as we witness to a lost world.



PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

2. True witness involves the “bad news” of sin and guilt as well as the “good news” of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

There can be no true faith in Christ unless first there is repentance from sin. It is the ministry of the Holy Spirit to convict lost sinners (John 16:7–11), and He will do this if we faithfully witness and use God’s Word.



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PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

3. The way to reach the masses is by helping the individual sinner.

Peter and John won the crippled beggar and his transformed life led to the conversion of thousands! **The servant of God who has no time for personal work with individual sinners will not be given many opportunities for ministering to great crowds.** Like Jesus, the Apostles took time for individuals.



45

PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

4. The best defense of the truth of the Christian faith is a changed life.

The healed beggar was “Exhibit A” in Peter’s defense of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



46

PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

5. Whenever God blesses, Satan shows up to oppose the work and silence the witness; and often he uses religious people to do his work.

The same crowd that opposed the ministry of Jesus Christ also opposed the work of the Apostles, and they will oppose our ministry today. Expect it—but don't let it stop you! The important thing is not that we are comfortable, but that the name of the Lord is glorified through the preaching of the Gospel.



47

PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

6. God has promised to bless and use His Word, so let's be faithful to witness.

Jesus even prayed that our witness would have success (John 17:20), so we have every reason to be encouraged. There is power in the name of Jesus, so we need not fear to witness and call sinners to repent.



PRACTICAL ENCOURAGEMENT

7. The name of Jesus Christ still has power!

We may not perform the same apostolic miracles today that were seen in the early church, but we can still claim the authority of Jesus Christ as He has instructed us in the Word. We can preach the “remission of sins” in His name (Luke 24:47) so that people might believe and have “life through His name” (John 20:31). We can give someone a cup of cold water, receive a child (Matt. 18:5), or give alms in His name (Mark 9:41). These ministries are still important to the work of God.



49

**The name of Jesus Christ
still has authority and power.
Let's go forth, be BOLD, and
conquer in His name!**

