

Man - **Acts Ch 2** was an **INCREDIBLE** Ch - *wasn't it ??*

We **left off** in the last verse of **Acts Ch 2** with these words

***The Lord added to their number day by day
those who were being saved***

What an incredible **TIME** this was - & what an incredible **PICTURE** of
BEING the CHURCH we saw in our last Msg

But now - as we start **Acts Ch 3** - the First **STORM** of Persecution
is already going to **HIT** the **N.T. Church**

Here's the outline for **Acts Ch 3 & 4**

MIRACLE → SERMON → PERSECUTION → RESPONSE

We'll see a **MIRACLE** of Healing today

& then - From that **MIRACLE** - comes another Spirit-Filled **SERMON**

& then in the Next Msg we'll see

the **PERSECUTION** that comes from the **SERMON**,
that comes from the **MIRACLE**

& finally we'll see the **RESPONSE**

that comes from the **PERSECUTION**

that comes from the **SERMON**

that comes from the **MIRACLE** - - *Does that make sense ??*

Miracle → Sermon → Persecution → Response

& this causes the **N.T. Church** to begin **spreading like wildfire**

Let's Pray

We **begin today** w/ **Peter & John** going up to the temple
at the hour of prayer - the **9th hour**, which is our **3PM**

The disciples are still **fully connected** to the Jewish temple

because they saw **Jesus Christ** as the **FULFILLMENT**
of all the went on in the temple (just like we do)

The disciples **DID NOT** turn against **Jewish worship** in the temple

It was the **Religious Leaders** of the temple
that **fiercely turned against** the disciples

& all thru-out church history - **God has SAVED** people
& **DRAWN them** into the church

& **far too often** - the **RELIGIOUS people** of the church
have **TURNED** the people **God** was saving - **AWAY** from the church

Which is **partly the story** of the **Calvary Chapel Movement**

KAY Smith convinced her husband **Chuck** - **NOT** to **turn AWAY**
the smelly **drug-addict hippies** from the church - but **embrace them**

& this incredible **MOVEMENT** of God - that **WE** are part of
was **BIRTHED** from **that** commitment

When **God saves** people - He saves them **JUST AS THEY ARE**
& He **draws them** into fellowship in the church

Let's make sure we **embrace them** - As **God** is **Saving** them, **OK** ?

So - - **Peter & John** - are **headed** to the temple to pray
with all their **fellow Jews**

& **as they enter** the temple court

they come across a man **Lame From Birth** - **begging for ALMS**

Acts 3:1–2 (esv)

1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.

Ch 4 says this man was over **40 yrs old** - & **Lame from birth**
& was **CARRIED daily** to **this spot** to **ask for alms** (to beg)

The **Beautiful Gate** was **NOT** a gate in the outer wall
of the temple mount - it was **INSIDE** the temple court area

It separated the “**Court of the Women**” from the “**Court of Israel**”
where only **Jewish males** could enter

It Faced **EAST** - & from **INSIDE** the Temple area - Thru this Gate
you could **SEE** the **Mt of OLIVES** - where **Jesus will Return** (Zech 14)

It was called the “**Beautiful Gate**” because it was
the **most beautiful** of all the gates in the temple area

75 FT HIGH - **60 FT WIDE** - Made of **Polished BRONZE**
It took **20 men** to **open & close it** - *It was **Magnificent***

AND - on this Incredible Gate - of **Polished BRONZE**
was actually a **VINE BRANCH**

Symbolizing to the Jews, that they were the **Vineyard of God**

But symbolizing to US Jesus' declaration - "*I am the Vine, & you are the branches . . . & apart from me you can do nothing*" (Jn 15:5)

& so - it was against this strikingly beautiful gate -
that this man - lame from birth - sat, begging ALMS

& he was in a coveted position for an ALMS beggar

Because this is where the Jewish men
would enter the area of the temple - to make their sacrifices

& there were THREE things the Jews really wanted to be SEEN doing
to be considered - PIOUS (Religious)

- 1) Making SACRIFICES
- 2) PRAYING in Public
- 3) Giving ALMS

So - to be seen Giving ALMS on their way into the court to Make
SACRIFICES & PRAY - would take care of ALL THREE at once

So - Two things are important to note here

- 1) **This beggar was no novice - This was THE Hot spot**
Which means he probably would've been there when Jesus passed thru these same gates many times - and did NOT heal him
- 2) **He was almost certainly NOT the only beggar there**
Which means not every beggar that day - got healed

The historians say sometimes the beggars (most LAME in some way)
would be lined up right here - asking alms - of those going in

But TODAY - We're going to see God CHOOSE THIS beggar
& HEAL him - for God's PURPOSE, & for God's GLORY
& THAT is exactly how we see true healing done TODAY

GOD'S Choice
For GOD'S Purpose
For GOD'S Glory

God is going to HEAL this man

his HEALING is going to LAUNCH a great SERMON
that SERMON is going to LAUNCH the PERSECUTION
that PERSECUTION is going to LAUNCH a RESPONSE
that CAUSES the church to SPREAD like Wildfire

God IS in Control - God IS Building His Church

& this Lame Man - & Peter & John - are about to take their places
to be USED by God - for HIS Good Purpose

& WE should be striving - to do the same thing, in our lives

Cont'g in Acts 3:3-5 (esv)

3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.

4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us."

5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

Peter & John - & THIS Beggar are now EYE-to-EYE

But notice carefully - the Beggar is CLUELESS

v.5 says - ***He expected to receive something from them*** (alms)

There is NO WAY - the "Word Faith" teachers of our day
can say this man HAD ENOUGH FAITH to be healed

There's a pretty good chance he believed in the God of Israel

cause he was in the temple courts every day

But right now - **ALL** he's expecting - was **the sound of a coin hitting the bottom of his little tin cup** (*that's all the faith he has*)

So - let me **give** you some **Truths** that can clearly be seen in our **text** today - about **HEALING**

- 1) God **HEALS** - *He is the same yesterday, today, & forever*
- 2) God heals **SOVEREIGNLY** - *Not every beggar was healed*
- 3) God heals **DIFFERENTLY** - *Jesus healed a dozen ways, now this*
- 4) God heals for **HIS GLORY** - *He always has a purpose*

Guys - We **CANNOT** Force God's hand to heal no matter how **LOUDLY** we say we can

We can only make ourselves **AVAILABLE**

to be Part of His **Purpose** - & Part of His **Plan** allowing God to **HEAL us** - & **USE us** - as **HE** sees fit

& we see **God's Plan** begin to "**Take Shape**" here in **Vs 6**

Acts 3:6-7 (esv)

6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.

Peter says - ***I don't have any change on me bro . . .***
but here's what **I DO HAVE**

IN THE NAME of Jesus Christ of Nazareth - **RISE UP & WALK !!**
In the **POWER** of **The Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**

it's **TIME** for you to be made well

THIS is Jesus continuing to **DO** - **BY the Holy Spirit,**
& **THRU the CHURCH** - what He **DID** in the **Gospels**

JESUS is healing this man - just like **He had done** so many times
& in **so many ways** - while He was **on earth** in the flesh

It's just that **NOW** Peter & John are "**being**" the *body of Christ*
& Jesus is **working this miracle** - *thru them*

& **Notice** in **V.7** - **WHOSE FAITH** is **in ACTION** here ??

PETER - **TOOK HIM**, by the hand - & **PETER RAISED** him up

Peter First **GRABS** this man's attention
with the **NAME** of Jesus Christ

& then he **GRABS** him *Physically* - **IN FAITH**
& **PULLS HIM** to his **FEET**

This word for **TOOK** Him by the hand
is the word used to **ARREST** or **APPREHEND** a person

This man - had been **APPREHENDED**
by the **POWER** of Jesus Christ

When he was **just hoping** for a few coins
to get **some Matza bread**

& then - **also notice** - at the end of **V.7** - where it says
immediately his feet and ankles were made strong

These are **MEDICAL terms** - found **nowhere else** in the Bible
again supporting the fact that **Dr Luke** is writing

Now - **Have you ever** seen **GYMNASTS**

where one's on the ground - & the **other one grabs him** & pulls him up
& that person goes **flying up in the air** . . .

That's **the picture** of what's happening here !!

& it's all part of **God's purpose** - to make sure this Miracle
is being **SEEN** by everybody

which becomes very important in the **next Ch**
when the **PERSECUTION** begins

Acts 3:8 (esv)

8 And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED this Verse - The **LAME MAN** goes
Walking & Leaping & Praising God - I soo relate to this vs

This man - Lame from Birth - **FLIES up** in the air
& starts **walking & leaping & PRAISING GOD**

Guys - this **LAME BEGGAR** is a Picture of **US**
in our **CONDITION** *without* Christ

& God is going to **SAVE** this **BEGGAR** - & **USE Him**
Just like He will **SAVE** You & I - & **USE us**

& Don't you just **LOVE** to see people

Walking & Leaping & Praising God

It's **such a Testimony** of the miracle
of the **NEW LIFE** that Jesus Christ **pours** into us

So . . . HOW ABOUT US ??

How often do we go *Walking & Leaping & Praising*
into God's Presence ??

WE were **Lame** - - - WE were **Paralyzed in our SIN**

& **JESUS** reached down - - & **PICKED US UP**

& **HEALED** US - - & **RESTORED** US to LIFE . . .

& We can **learn a lot** from this Beggar's **response**
to being **HEALED** & **SAVED** by the touch of Jesus

Guys - Let's try **Walking & Leaping & Praising God** sometimes

It reminds us of the 10 LEPERS that Jesus healed in Luke 17

They **ALL cried out** to Jesus

He told them **ALL** to **GO** - show themselves to the Priest

& **AS** they went - they were **ALL healed**

But Only **ONE** out of the **TEN** - **Returned** to give Jesus **PRAISE**

& he was a **SAMARITAN** - **NOT** even a **JEW**

& Jesus asked - **WHERE** are the other **NINE** ??

Guys . . . **DON'T** be like the Other **NINE**

Every **once in a while** just come

Walking & Leaping & Praising - into God's Presence, **ok?**

So this man - Known by **ALL** the people - as the Beggar at the Gate
Comes **DANCING** into the temple

& **NOW** - He's **READY** about to be **USED** by God !!

Acts 3:9-11 (esv)

***9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God,
10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of
the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and
amazement at what had happened to him.
11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly
astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's.***

God used this miracle to **DRAW** the People in - **WHY** ??
to **HEAR** the Gospel Message - of course

The people **SAW** this man that ***was*** **LAME** - ***now*** **DANCING**
& they were **filled** with **wonder** & **amazement**

& Again - here is a **personal application** for us

The people KNEW this man

& they **SAW** that something **SUPERNATURAL** happened to him
& it **DREW** them to the **SOURCE** of the miracle

& the **EXACT** same thing **can happen** in our lives

If God has allowed you to **SUFFER** in your **SIN**
& then He has **HEALED YOU** - & **RESTORED YOU**

He has done it for **HIS GLORY** - to **DRAW** the People
to **HIMSELF** - **THRU HIS** work in **YOUR** life

Are we **JOINING** God - in **the Work** He wants to do **around us**
by **allowing people** to see the **MIRACULOUS CHANGE**
God has **brought** into our lives

THIS man let the people **SEE** what God had done in his **LIFE**

& they were **filled** with **Wonder** & **Amazement** -
& they **all came** running to **SEE** the **CAUSE** of the miracle

& **NOTICE** the Healed man's **ROLE** at this point
V.11 says - *he was clinging to Peter and John*

They were the **HANDS** of Jesus in his life
& so he was **CLINGING** to them

& again a very **DRAMATIC** Word - - - ***CLINGING to for dear life***

& so - they're standing in **Solomon's PORCH** - on the east side
of temple mount - right in front of the "**Beautiful Gate**"

& the people all **RUSH** over to see what's happening
& **BAAM** - we have a **FULL REPEAT** of **Acts Ch 2**

In **Ch 2** God **used a MIRACLE** to draw the people -
to **hear the Gospel** Message & get **SAVED**

In **Ch 3** God **uses a MIRACLE** to draw the people -
to **hear the Gospel** Message & get **SAVED**
Are you starting to see a PATTERN here ??

BUT in **BOTH** instances - the **FOCUS** was **NOT** - on the Miracle
It was on the **GOSPEL MESSAGE** & the **SALVATION** of the people

The **MIRACLE** was the **TOOL** God used

to bring about the greater miracle of Salvation for The People

& this is the way it ALWAYS IS
the GREATEST Miracle is always - SALVATION

NO other Miracle MATCHES - the Miracle of Salvation

& so now - Peter's on the spot again

Acts 3:12 (esv)

12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?"

FIRST THING Peter does - is to make clear - what this is NOT
just like he did in Acts Ch 2

In Acts 2 he says - *this is NOT what you think* (these are not drunk)

Here he says - *this is NOT what you think* -

This has NOTHING to do
with our own POWER or Our own PIETY (Godliness)

& Then - - after clarifying what this is NOT
Peter flows right into - what this IS !!

& again - another incredible Spirit-Filled sermon - comes out of
the previous "foot-in-mouth" Apostle Peter

Acts 3:13 (esv)

13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

THIS is what you call - an **ATTENTION GETTER**
& **Peter's** just getting started

He says - **OUR** God - **Glorified HIS** Servant Jesus
Whom **YOU** Denied, when Pilate wanted to **RELEASE** Him

& then he cont's - Acts 3:14-15 (esv)

14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this (the resurrection) we are witnesses.

OK - - - Now it's gettin' personal !!

YOU DENIED the Holy & Righteous One

YOU CHOSE a Murderer instead

YOU KILLED the Author of Life, whom God **RAISED** from the Dead

Guys - WE **DENIED** the Holy One

WE **CHOSE SIN** instead of God

& **OUR SIN** - **KILLED** the Author of Life

Those are the **FACTS**

That is the **TRUTH**

That is where **EACH of us STAND** - - ***Guilty before God***

& then Peter uses a **LIVING ILLUSTRATION** - right in front of us
To **PROVE** the **Power** of **the One** whom Our Sin **KILLED** . . .

Acts 3:16 (esv)

16 And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

“**The Name**” of Jesus means
the **Full Character & Nature** of Who He is

& Peter says - **BY FAITH** in the **Full Character & Nature**
of **Jesus Christ** - this man has been healed

It is **Faith in Jesus Christ** - that's given this man
his perfect **HEALTH** - in the presence of you all

Now - the **clearest interpretation** of **WHO'S** Faith this is
would be **Peter & John's**

because there's **NO indication** this lame man
had faith **BEFORE** this miracle - **Tho** he certainly does now

But here is another **GREAT** lesson **many of us** need to learn

Notice - Peter will **NOT EVEN** draw attention to himself
by saying **MY** faith - or **OUR** Faith

If you have **Faith**, even to heal -
Eph 2:8 says it's a **GIFT** from God (*so get over yourself*)

The **ONLY time** we should say **I - ME** - or **MINE**
is when we are talking about **our SIN**

because **everything else** - besides our own **SIN**
Belongs to **GOD** !!

& Peter & John **DON'T** even **draw attention** to *themselves*
by saying **MY** faith, or **OUR** Faith

Peter just says **FAITH** (period) in God - **Has done this**
& **that's** an **EXAMPLE** - **WE** need to **FOLLOW**

& now **Peter** - opens the door - for his **hearer's Salvation**

& He's also (again) going to teach us - about the **DUAL truth**
of *Our CHOICES* - & *God's SOVEREIGNTY* - (*just like he did in ch 2*)

Acts 3:17-18 (esv)

17 *“And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. (your choice)*

18 *But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. (God's Sovereignty)*

That's the **DOUBLE-EDGED Sword**
of **Free-Will**, & **God's Sovereignty** - Right there !

& **NOW** - comes the **POINT** of this Entire **Miraculous** Event

Acts 3:19-20(a) (esv)

19 *Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,*

20 *that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, . . .*

What's **the POINT** of **ALL THIS ??**

I mean - **ALL THIS** - God's entire plan

including the **Life**, **Death**, & **Resurrection** of Jesus Christ . . .

Leading all the way up - to **this man** being **healed** here today ??

The **POINT** - The **GOAL** is - that *you & I* would **REPENT**,
& **TURN to** Jesus Christ

that **our sins** may be **blotted out**, & that **times of refreshing**
may come from the **presence** of the Lord

THAT'S the **POINT** - That's the **GOAL** - That's the **PURPOSE**

God wants you **SAVED** - & He wants you **HEALED** of the **SIN**
that's **Paralyzing** your Life

& He has **healed this Man** Lame from birth today
to give you a **Living Example**

of the **Healing** He wants to bring into **YOUR** Life - -

Do you SEE IT ??

Now - we're going to **save** the *actual end*
of **Peter's Sermon** for our **NEXT** Msg

Because it **leads** into the **Persecution**
that's **Triggered** by this event

THIS - is the Main Point - - Acts 3:19-20(a) (esv)

19 Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,

20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, . . .

REPENT therefore - which means **TURN** from your **SIN**
& **TURN** to Jesus Christ

That your **SINS** may be **BLOTTED OUT**
it means Literally **WIPE AWAY** - **CANCELLED** for good

Col 2:13-14 (esv)

***13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,
14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.***

& if **YOU** are here today -
& you **Need to REPENT** - to **TURN to GOD**

So that your Sins may be **BLOTTED** out - **CANCELLED**
Nailed to the Cross & **Covered** by the **Blood of Jesus**

Then **I want** to **give you a chance** to do that here **in a minute**

& if you will **TRULY REPENT** - & **TURN TOWARD GOD**

Then **Times of Refreshing WILL** come -
from the **Presence of the Lord** in your Life

The **OFFER** we read **HERE** - in this Sermon
Still **STANDS** today
it's as **REAL** today as **the day it happened** in Jerusalem
& as it was **THEN** - So it should be **NOW**

The combination of **SEEING** the **POWER** of God
& **HEARING** the **Word** of God

is **meant** to bring **LIFE** - in place of **DEATH**

It's meant to bring a **RESPONSE** of **REPENTANCE**
& the **RECEIVING of Life** in Jesus Christ

That our sins may be **BLOTTED** out - & times of **REFRESHING**
may come from the **PRESENCE** of the Lord - in our lives

So **FIRST** (pls listen) - If **you're already a Christian**
& you **need prayer** - - - just **hold on** a minute

if you have **NEVER** made a **Public Confession** of **FAITH** in Jesus
I want to **give you** a chance to do that - - **FIRST**

If you need to be **HEALED** of the **SIN** that has **PARALYZED** you

Then **I would say** - - **RISE UP & WALK**

RESPOND to the Call of Jesus Christ - to **be SAVED**
& **HE** will Blot out your **SIN**
& **HE** will bring times of **REFRESHING** into your life

If **you need** to do that
I want you to **come up here** & do that with me