

Putting Feet to Your Faith

Acts 3:11-26

- We left off with the lame man being healed by Peter which was the first recorded healing in the book of Acts after the disciples received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This man was so overjoyed with what had happened that instead of running off to start a life without any input from God or His people he joins them in going into the temple, probably for the very first time since no one that was crippled was allowed inside, and once there he is praising the Lord so intensely that the people begin to realize that this was the lame man who laid at the gate all these years but now is able to walk, jump, and leap for joy, which caused them to be amazed.

V11-26

- **V11** as the people began to gather around to see this remarkable thing that has happened notice the newly healed man is clinging to Peter and John, before he had to be dependent upon others to survive since he couldn't walk or get around on his own, now on his own accord he is still dependent upon others, but this time its men who are dedicated to serving and blessing God. One he was forced to while the other is voluntary, I thank the Lord that I am needed within the body and that I need the body in order to thrive and grow in the grace of our Lord Jesus.
- **V12-15** Peter wisely takes advantage of the opportunity seeing an open door from which to share Jesus, this only happens when we're seeing things through the lenses of faith otherwise you'll remain blind to the opportunities all around you to give the gospel. So Peter begins his second sermon and just like in the first where he had to refute the accusation that he and the believers were drunk, here he refutes the notion that he and John healed this man by their own power, and so he immediately identifies the source of the miracle > Jesus Christ, The Son of God
- Next he boldly reminds the Jews how they had treated The Son of God, for not only had they denied Him, but also they delivered Him to the Romans to be crucified, and worse when given the opportunity to correct the error they instead asked for a guilty man (Barabbas) to be set free so that an innocent prisoner, there only because of our crimes, might be crucified. If the spotlight was on Peter-John before it certainly is not now, for in saying this he wisely took the attention off of himself and placed it on Jesus, this coming from a man who once couldn't even stand up to a little ole servant girl, but now through the Power of the Holy Spirit is bold as a lion.
- **V16-18** Peter makes sure of three things > **1st** that they all knew that it was through the power and name of Jesus and not because of man that this man is healed, and it's no denying it as you all know exactly what his previous circumstances were, **2nd** what you may have done ignorantly before God will make sure that you make a conscience choice now, **3rd** what has happened was not by chance but was foretold in scripture that Jesus would interact with us, model His glory before us, display His power to us, and be resurrected for us, that we may be saved.

- **V19-20** when giving the gospel there is always an indictment, but it must always be followed by hope, Peter having announced the crime and presented the evidence now offers them a pardon. Just as in his last sermon **2:38** he tells the crowd to “**repent**” which means to turn around from your previous way of thinking, acting, and surrender your will and your life to Jesus. Repentance does three things > **1st** it changes our minds and our hearts, causing us to go in a whole different direction, **2nd** it allows God to forgive us of our current and past sins, **3rd** it brings a fresh fellowship with the Lord, which produces an undeniable joy within us > **Ps 103:11-12**
- **V21-26** when the gospel is presented correctly you will start out like a prosecuting attorney and after presenting all the evidence then turn around and become the person’s defense attorney, by telling the people that they stand before a Judge Who is looking to pardon them. Peter now quotes scripture to authenticate his message bringing to their attention what Moses said in **Deut 18:15, 18-19**, as well as in **Gen 12:3**, for in Israel the Savior would come through to bless the entire world, this is a reminder that it shouldn’t have surprised them for they should have been waiting for it to happen as prophesied in scripture.
- It’s the same with us, for much of what happens God has already told us that it would and yet we act as if it’s a surprise, we need to not only study God’s Word, but also believe that what it says, it will come to pass. As I look at this sermon I can’t help but see the remarkable transformation that Peter has made, he’s gone from **self seeking** and **self serving** which stems from being **prideful**, to being **selfless** and **spiritually sensitive** which stems from **humility**.