

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: From Jerusalem

Text: Acts 3:1-4:4

HI: In Jesus, the guilty meet mercy.

Title: *A Miracle Story*

Hook: Miracle that changes the math

Date: 10.2.22

Purpose: To confront sinners with the message of God's mercy in Christ.

FCF: We stand alongside the witnesses of this miracle as sinners who are culpable of treason against God. God meets us in mercy as the gospel of his Son sets free all who repent and turn to him.

COR: The image of the lame beggar at the Gate Beautiful draws our empathy. The message of the gospel through Peter confronts our apathy. We desire mercy, and in Christ we find the truest form of mercy imaginable.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Peter's sermon unfolds the significant Christology upon which the gospel stands.

Apologetic: 4:1-4: The risen Savior is the dividing line

Form: Inductive

Outline:

I. This miracle of Jesus gathered witnesses. (3:1-10)

A. The lame man lived on mercy. (1-5)

B. The name of Jesus raised him up. (6-10)

II. This message of Jesus confronted sinners. (3:11-26)

A. Witness the glory of Jesus.

B. Acknowledge the wickedness of sin.

C. Repent in response to God's mercy.

READ Acts 4:1-4

The risen Jesus is the dividing line.

Main Idea:

Subject: Why did God heal the man born lame?

Complement: To gather a crowd and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus, who came to save men from their wickedness.

Exegetical Idea: God's power healed the man born lame so that a crowd would gather who could hear the gospel of Jesus, who came to save men from their wickedness.

Theological Idea: In Jesus, the power of God breaks into a broken world to save wicked humans from their sin.

Homiletical Idea: In Jesus, the guilty meet mercy.

Introduction:

"The miracles in fact are a retelling in small letters of the very same story which is written across the whole world in letters too large for some of us to see." C.S. Lewis "Miracles" in *God in the Dock*

"A naturalistic Christianity leaves out all that is specifically Christian."
— **C.S. Lewis, Miracles**

READ Acts 3:1-10

Acts 3:1 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

I. This miracle of Jesus gathered witnesses. (3:1-10)

Name = "Power/Authority"

READ Acts 3:11-26

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's.

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?"

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.

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 we are witnesses.

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.

¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.

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

²⁰ that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

²¹ whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

²² Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.

²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'

²⁴ And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.

²⁵ You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'

²⁶ God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

II. This message of Jesus confronted sinners. (3:11-26)

1) Jesus the righteous redeemer

And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Exodus 3:6

2) Jesus the glorious servant

3) Jesus the source of life

"Author" – "Originator, Founder, Source"

Hebrews 12:2 – "looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith"

4) Jesus the greater Moses

5) Jesus the prophesied King

6) Jesus the promised deliverer

for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. Galatians 3:26

III: In Jesus, the guilty meet mercy.

READ Acts 4:1-4

Acts 4:1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them,

² greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

³ And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.

⁴ But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

HI: In Jesus, the guilty meet mercy.