



“The Leaping Lame Man”

Acts 3:1-10

Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel

Acts 3:1-10 – “Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer. ²And a man who had been lame from his mother’s womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. ³When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms. ⁴But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, ‘Look at us!’ ⁵And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, ‘I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene - walk!’ ⁷And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. ⁸With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God; ¹⁰and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”

Intro: A few days earlier these people had seen and heard the mighty work and evidence of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost...as the birth of the church happened on that day.

Last week in Acts 2, Pastor Kenton talked about the “Real Church Growth Movement.”

- He looked at the response to the gospel (vv. 37-41), and the results of the gospel (vv. 42-47)

So that’s the context as we come to Acts 3:1-10

- This is the first recorded miracle in the book of Acts performed by the apostles.
- Acts 2:43b – “many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.”

Mark 16:17-18 – “These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

- So we’re seeing the fulfillment of that.

So, in Acts 3:1-10 we’re going to see three things take place.

1. An opportunity to help (vv.1-3)
2. A better offer (vv.4-7)
3. A complete restoration (vv.7-10)

So let’s look at the first one...

1. An opportunity to help (vv.1-3)

Acts 3:1 – “Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth hour, the hour of prayer.”

Psalm 55:17 – “Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, and He will hear my voice.”

Daniel 6:10 – “Daniel entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.”

Acts 3:2 – “And a man who had been lame from his mother’s womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.”

John 5:3 – “...a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered.”

Acts 3:3 – “When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he began asking to receive alms.”

2. A better offer (vv.4-7)

Acts 3:4-7 – “But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, ‘Look at us!’⁵ And he began to give them his attention expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, ‘I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene - walk!’⁷ And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.”

3. A complete restoration (vv.7-10)

Acts 3:7a – “And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up;”

Acts 3:7b-8 – “Immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. ⁸With a leap he stood upright and began to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.”

Acts 3:9 – “And all the people saw him walking and praising God.”

Acts 3:10 – “And they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple to beg alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.”

Wrap-up

1. The ultimate gift to a broken world is the saving power of Jesus’ name
2. God still heals and restores today
3. You can move from desperation to praise
4. Expect transformation

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. When the people in the temple saw the healed man, how did they react? Why were they so astonished?
2. How does this transformation from “begging” to “praising” mirror the spiritual transformation found in Christ?
3. In what ways do we sometimes focus on the felt needs of others rather than their need for spiritual transformation?
4. When was the last time you were truly filled with awe of God’s work in your life or community?
5. How can we use the “name of Jesus” to bring healing and hope to our community today?