

Acts Chapter 3: Hands and Feet

Praise Jesus for Everything

- Promise of Holy Spirit Fulfilled: You will receive power to be My witnesses
- Sound of wind, Sight of Flaming tongues, Voices of different languages
- Culminate if Fiery Spirit powered sermon and 3000 saved
- Beginning of the Church/Birth of the Bride of Christ
 1. Fear of God combined with Favor of all people and many added
 2. Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking Bread, Prayer, Praise

These disciples will continue the work of Jesus on Earth; heal, deliver, save, restore

- Always looking for opportunities to share the Gospel! **You will be My witnesses!**

I. Jesus Hands and Feet

1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the **ninth hour**.

- **Peter and John:** Dynamic Duo
- **Still going to Temple:**
 1. **Hour of Prayer:** Also called "Hour of Confession"
 2. **Ninth hour** or 3:00pm
 3. Second Lamb Sacrifice of the day
- **Share Gospel?**

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

- Lame from birth
- Friends laid him at gate of Temple
- Gate called "**Beautiful**"

Josephus describes a gate made of fine Corinthian brass at the temple, seventy-five feet high with huge double doors, so beautiful that it "greatly excelled those that were only covered over with silver and gold.

- **Job:** Ask alms; i.e. offering, handout

3...seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. 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.

- Peter/John about to step into Temple
- Hear man asking for money
- Boys fix eyes on the man Peter said...

"Look at us!

- Expected to receive something from them...

6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you:

- We don't have money
- What was given to me I give to you:

6b In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

- **Name of Jesus: In Authority of Jesus and Everything He is**

"In Semitic thought, a name does not just identify or distinguish a person, it expresses the very nature of his being. Hence the power of the person is present and available in the name of the person." (Longenecker)

1. Salvation in no other Name [Acts 4:12]
2. Name above every Name [Philippians 2:9-11]
3. Washed, Sanctified, Justified in Name of Jesus by Spirit [1 Corinthians 6:11]
4. Whatever asked in Jesus Name He will do [John 14:13]
5. Signs and wonders performed though His Name [Acts 4:30]
6. Demons subject to His Name [Luke 10:17]
7. Condemned if not believing in Name of the only Son of God [John 3:18]
8. Believe in Name of Jesus for Eternal life [1 John 5:13]

Peter..."In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

There is a story about a humble monk walking with a Roman Catholic cardinal at a time in the Middle Ages when the Roman Catholic church was at its zenith of power, prestige and wealth. The cardinal pointed to the opulent surroundings and said to the monk, "We no longer have to say, silver and gold I do not have." The monk replied, "But neither can you say, 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.

- Peter grabs him by right hand pulls him up!

This wasn't something Peter did on a whim or as a promotional event; he did it under the specific prompting of the Holy Spirit. God gave Peter the supernatural ability to trust Him for something completely out of the ordinary. [Guzic]

- Feel feet/ ankle bones re-forming
- Why?

8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

1. Leaped up [Faith]
2. Stood [First time]

3. Walked into the Temple...with them
4. Inside: Walking, Leaping, **and Praising God**

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

- And the people saw him who was born lame...
 1. Walking [physical healing]
 2. Praising God [Spiritual healing]

The people witnessed Jesus through the Apostles

- Not first time for Peter/John: 12 sent in Luke 9 to heal/deliver

If this man was more than 40 years old , and had been crippled since birth, and was a familiar sight at this temple gate , then Jesus must have passed him by many times without healing him. Why? Because God's timing is just as important as His will, and it was for the greater glory of God that Jesus heal this man from heaven through His apostles. [Guzic]

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.

SUMMARY: Jesus Hands and Feet. Peter and John used as vessels of Jesus to heal. Result: Wonder and Amazement. Not the end result!

II. Purpose for Healing

- Purpose in the plan:

...all the people saw him walking and praising God.

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.

- Held on to Peter and John: Not for physical support but appreciation
- All the people ran together to them [Peter, John, healed man]

Now what?

12 So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people...

- **Open door:**

Colossians 4:2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

1 Corinthians 2:12 Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a

door was opened to me by the Lord

1 Corinthians 16:8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost. 9 For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

- SO PETER...Peter responds to peoples amazement...**open door**
- Faith comes by hearing [Romans 10:17]

12b...“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?”

- **Deflect the Glory**

Acts 12:21 So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. 22 And the people kept shouting, “The voice of a god and not of a man!” 23 Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died...24 **But the word of God grew and multiplied.**

- After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylondreams; Daniel interprets
- Pride will cause God to curse you and become lie an animal

Daniel 4:29 At the end of the twelve months [Nebuchadnezzar] was walking about the royal palace of Babylon. 30 The king spoke, saying, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?”

- Did not deflect the glory...

Daniel 4:33 That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles’ feathers and his nails like birds’ claws.

Isaiah 42:8 I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another,

- **Peter wisely deflect the Glory and says:**

1. **Not our power** that made him walk
2. **Not our godliness** that made him 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.

- **God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob: God of OUR fathers. God of Bible**

1. OT and NT: Same God
2. Glorified servant Jesus: Isaiah 52, 53 Jesus servant of Father [Mark]
3. You delivered up: Took by force
4. Denied while He was before Pilate [Gentile] who would have let Him go

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.

- **You denied the:**
 1. **Holy One:** Separated from sin
 2. **Just One:** Separated from unrighteousness
- **Instead:** Demanded a murderer set free His place. Barabbas; Lit. son of the father
- **You killed:**
 1. **Prince of Life**
 2. Whom God raised from the dead

By the way... **"We are witnesses of His resurrection!"**

- Denied the Holy and Just One. Killed Prince of Life. Set a murderer free
- Jews and Gentiles put Jesus on the cross

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.

- **His Name through faith:** Willing and Able to heal
- **Faith which comes through Jesus:**
 1. Peter even giving God glory for faith of man
 2. Faith in Name of Jesus healed Him
 3. Whose faith: Peter, John, and the man: All 3 believed

SUMMARY: Purpose in the healing: People ran together as in Acts 2. Physical healing was like a Church Bell calling people together to give **open door for the Word.**

Mark 2:1 [Jesus] entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. 2 Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. 3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, **"Son, your sins are forgiven you."**6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

- Physical healing validates authority for real healing...**Spiritual healing**

"It is not the Church's business in this world to simply make the present condition more bearable; the task of the Church is to release here on earth the redemptive work of God in

Christ." [LaSor]

- **Peter continues through the open door:**

III. Peter's 2nd Spirit Empowered Sermon

- Sin, Righteousness and Judgment: Holy Spirit Powered

17 "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

- **Ignorance:** Not innocence

18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

- Freewill: You were ignorant, not innocent. Responsible even though""
- God foreknew what you would do when He sent His Son

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation [verdict], that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

God knew it, you did it...and you are in some serious trouble

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...

- **Repent:** Turn. Change your mind
- **Be Converted:** A man MUST be born again. New Creation

1. Repent/Converted: Sins blotted out!

Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world!

2. Repent/Converted: **Times of Refreshing** may come from presence of Lord

- Not stale, bitter, rancid, decaying
- Stimulating, Energizing, Revitalizing...Refreshing

- Want to be refreshed? Repent

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.

- Send Jesus preached to you before: Acts 2
1. Must stay in Heaven until Restoration [Israel] and world [Regeneration]
 2. Which God has spoken through Holy Prophets: Isaiah, Ezekiel, etc.

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.'

- Peter pulls from OT Scripture

Matthew 13:52 Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

- **Deuteronomy 18**

1. Lord will raise up a Prophet like Moses
2. Deny His message [gospel] and there is NO hope

- Jesus is that Prophet you read about in Hebrew School

24 Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.

- **OT:** God said He would send the Messiah

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."

- You are sons of the Prophets: Do you believe them?
- Blessing to Abraham: His descendant [Jesus] would:
 1. Bless all families of earth!
 2. Start with you...Jews

- Jesus was sent to bless you...HOW?

God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, **...in turning away every one of you from your iniquities."**

- Joy/Blessing not in stuff, physical healing...but turning away from sin!
- Purpose of healing is this message

Jesus was sent to you and is working through us that you might turn away from sin and turn to Living God:

1 Thessalonians 1:8 Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. 9 For they themselves declarehow you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- **Next week Chapter Four:** 2000 more saved, over 5000 altogether

- Price Paid: Jail