

The Acts of the Apostles I
The Healing of the Lame Man
Acts 3:1-26

- I. THE LAME MAN WALKS (Acts 3:1-11)
 - A. Peter and John go into the temple (Acts 3:1)
 - i. “At the hour of prayer”—the hour that people stopped what they were doing and sought God in prayer; also, the hour in which Jesus was crucified.
 - ii. “Ninth hour”—3PM (day: from 6AM to 6PM) (night: from 6PM to 6AM)
 - B. His Routine (Acts 3:1-2)
 - i. To lay at the gate of the temple
 1. Beautiful Gate—ornate to represent God’s special blessing upon Israel
 2. Made of Corinthian brass; 80 feet high; 65 feet broad; took 20 men to open it.
 3. These structures testified to Israel having lost the blessings and power of God
 - ii. To beg for money
 1. Note: This had been this man’s *daily* routine for many years. He had been lame from birth.
 2. He was more than forty years old (Acts 4:22)
 3. This man had begged for money; spent it and then begged for more. It was a never-ending cycle just like it is for wage earners, etc. (Haggai 1:6)

Haggai 1:6 *Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.*

4. He would have been present in Jesus day when others were healed
5. This man needed his true condition treated, just as Jesus Christ treated the impotent man in the same vicinity in John 5 at the pool of Bethesda (see John 5:2-9)

6. God promised to reward obedience by removing disease and sickness from the nation (Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 7:12-15; Deuteronomy 28:58-62).

Exodus 15:26 And said, **If thou wilt diligently hearken** to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, **I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.**

Deuteronomy 7:12 Wherefore it shall come to pass, if ye hearken to these judgments, and keep, and do them, that the LORD thy God shall keep unto thee the covenant and the mercy which he sware unto thy fathers: 13 And he will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee. 14 Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle. 15 **And the LORD will take away from thee all sickness, and will put none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee; but will lay them upon all them that hate thee.**

Deuteronomy 28:58 **If thou wilt not observe to do** all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD; 59 **Then the LORD will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.** 60 **Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee.** 61 **Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the LORD bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.** 62 **And ye shall be left few in number, whereas ye were as the stars of heaven for multitude; because thou wouldest not obey the voice of the LORD thy God.**

7. Seeing the sick and the lame were testimonies against Israel that they were living outside the will of God and living in violation to God's precepts and commandments.
8. There were beggars on the outside and thieves on the inside (Mark 11:17)
 - A. His Request (Acts 3:3-5)
 - i. That Peter and John would give him money
 - ii. Expecting something of financial value
 1. Note: A godless society thinks the answer to all problems involves throwing more money at the problems using programs and/or

grants. Society's deplorable state can only be corrected with the word of God.

2. This world desperately needs to hear and heed the Bible
 - a) When a person receives Christ as Saviour they become a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - b) The word of God will guide a person to be a better father, mother, wife, husband, sister, brother. (Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:1-10)
3. This man's condition will be healed by the power of God in just a few minutes through human instruments as a testimony to what will take place in the millennium (Isaiah 35:3-7)

This also explains why Jesus came healing:

*Isaiah 35:3 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. 4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. 5 Then the **eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.** 6 Then shall **the lame man leap** as an hart, and the **tongue of the dumb sing**: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.*

B. His Reception (Acts 3:6-7)

- i. "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth" (Acts 3:6)
- ii. Immediate healing—no time delay (Acts 3:7-9)
- iii. Complete healing—made "whole" (Acts 4:10)
- iv. Note: A beautiful picture of salvation
 1. The condition of the lost:
 - a) They are sinners (Romans 5:8)

Romans 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

- b) They are children of the devil (John 8:44)

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil

- c) They are children of wrath (Ephesians 2:3)

Ephesians 2:3 ... by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

d) They are enemies of God (Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21)

Romans 5:10 *For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God*

Colossians 1:21 *And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*

e) They are ungodly (Romans 5:6)

Romans 5:6 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

f) They are without hope (Ephesians 2:12)

Ephesians 2:12 *... having no hope, and without God in the world:*

a) They are unrighteous (Romans 3:10-12)

Romans 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ... none that doeth good, no, not one.*

2. Salvation is:

a) Greater than silver and gold (Acts 3:6; 1 Peter 1:18-19)

1 Peter 1:18 *... redeemed with ... the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

b) A free gift (Acts 3:6; Romans 5:15-18)

Romans 5:15 *But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. ... 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. 17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.*

c) Instant (Acts 3:7; Acts 4:10; Acts 16:30-31;
Romans 10:9-10)

Romans 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

d) Evident to others (Acts 3:9)

- e) Amazing to others (Acts 3:10)
- f) Glorifying to God (Acts 3:13); Lazarus (John 11:4)

John 11:4 *When Jesus heard that, he said, **This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.***

- B. His Rejoicing (Acts 3:8-9)
 - i. Walking and leaping
 - ii. Glorifying God
 - C. His Recruiting (Acts 3:10-11)
- II. THE PERSON OF THE SON (Acts 3:12-18)
- A. The Son of God (Acts 3:12-13)
 - i. Peter deflects the praise and recognition (Acts 3:12)
 - ii. Jesus Christ is the power, not us
 - iii. Glorified His Son (Acts 3:13)
 - 1. Seated at the “*right hand of the majesty on high*” (Hebrews 1:3; Hebrews 8:1)

Hebrews 1:3 ... *sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*

Hebrews 8:1 ... *an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;*

- 2. After resurrection and ascension (Luke 24:26, John 7:39; Revelation 5:12)

Luke 24:25-26 *Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?*

John 7:39 ... *Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

The Lord on His throne in heaven at the right hand of the Father.

Revelation 5:12 *Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, **and glory**, and blessing.*

- B. THE Holy One (Acts 3:14a; Acts 2:27; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 29.23; Isaiah 43:1-3; Isaiah 49:6-7)

Luke 1:35 ... *that holy thing ... Son of God.*

Isaiah 29:23 ... *Holy One of Jacob* ...

Isaiah 43:1-3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour ...

Isaiah 49:6-7 Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

C. THE Just (One) (Acts 3:14b; Acts 7:52; 1 Peter 3:18)

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

D. THE Prince of Life (Acts 3:15-16; John 1:4; John 14:6) – Note: The faith (v. 16) points back to the faith of the man as he placed his faith in the name of Jesus (verse 6) revealed in verse 8 after hearing that name, he leaped to his feet whole.

E. The Suffering Christ (Acts 3:17-18)

F. Peter is preaching to the group who less than two months earlier had been guilty of choosing a murderer over the sinless Son of God. Peter is pointing to the moral and spiritual condition of their hearts—they had a common bond with a wicked man whom they chose in lieu of a Just man whom they rejected. What does that say about their hearts as they come to the temple to say prayers, piously offering sacrifices while participating in their religion? They were pretending hypocrites (Acts 3:13-15)?

G. Four charges

i. “ye delivered up” Jesus to Pilate (verse 13)

ii. “ye denied” the Holy One (verse 14)

iii. (ye) “desired” a murderer (verse 14)

iv. (ye) “killed” the Prince of life (verse 15)

III. THE SINNING THROUGH IGNORANCE (Acts 3:17-18)

A. Under the Law (Leviticus 5:14-19; Leviticus 22:14)

Leviticus 22:14 And if a man eat of the holy thing unwittingly, then he shall put the fifth part thereof unto it, and shall give it unto the priest with the holy thing.

B. Without the Law (Acts 17:30)

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

C. After the Law (Acts 3:17; 1 Timothy 1:13)

1 Timothy 1:11-13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it **ignorantly** in **unbelief**. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

- Jesus prayer on the cross reduced their sin from murder to manslaughter (under the law they had a city of refuge to flee). They can find a place of safety and refuge and live (Luke 23:34).

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for **they know not what they do**. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

D. Without Excuse (Romans 1:20; Romans 2:1, 2; Romans 3:19)

Romans 1:20 ... so that they are without excuse:

Romans 2:1 Therefore thou art **inexcusable** ...

Romans 3:19 ... all the world may become guilty before God.

IV. THE BLOTTING OUT OF SINS (Acts 3:19-21; Jeremiah 50:20; Romans 11:27; Hebrews 8:10-12)

Jeremiah 50:20 In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, **the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.**

Romans 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, **when I shall take away their sins.**

Hebrews 8:10 ..., **and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.**

Peter tailoring or gearing his message to his audience

A. At the Times of Refreshing (Acts 3:19-20; Matthew 19:28)

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have **followed me, in the regeneration** when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

B. At the Times of Restitution (Acts 3:21; Isaiah 1:25-27)

Isaiah 1:25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: *26* And I will **restore** thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. *27* Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

- **Blotting Out**

Isaiah 43:22 But thou hast **not called upon me**, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel. *23* **Thou hast not brought** me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured me with thy **sacrifices**. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense. *24* Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities. *25* **I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.**

Isaiah 44:21 Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. *22* **I have blotted out**, as a thick cloud, **thy transgressions**, and, as a cloud, **thy sins**: return unto me; for **I have redeemed thee.**

Psalms 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. *7* Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. *8* Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice. *9* Hide thy face from my sins, and **blot out all mine iniquities.**

Every time blotting out shows up, it is a complete cancellation, never partial

- **Numbers 5:23** blot out the curses in a book
- **Deuteronomy 9:14, 29:20, 2 Kings 14:27** Blot out names
- **Deuteronomy 25:19** Blot out the remembrance of Amalek

Times of Refreshing

- The whole earth is born again (original condition)
- The body is restored to the soul by resurrection
- The soul is restored to God by regeneration (Re-Genesis)

Isaiah 1:25-27 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: *26* And I will **restore** thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. *27* Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

V. THE PROMISE OF THE PROPHET (Acts 3:22-26)

- A. The Prophecy of Moses (Acts 3:22-23; Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19)
 - i. Foretold

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD thy God will **raise up unto thee a Prophet** from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; ... 18 **I will raise them up a Prophet** from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. 19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

- ii. First of 19 mentions of Moses in the book of Acts
- B. The Prophecy of Others (Acts 3:24)—Samuel and those that follow
- C. Their Fulfillment Through Christ (Acts 3:25-26)—The Jew First
 - i. If it is to the JEW FIRST—others will get this same offer
 - ii. As the people of God (Ephesians 2:11, 12)

Ephesians 2:11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; 12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

- iii. To be sought by the Son (Acts 3:26; John 1:11)

John 1:11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

- iv. To be preached the gospel (**Acts 13:46**; **Acts 18:5, 6**; **Acts 28:23-29**)

VI. THE SERMON IS INTERRUPTED as Peter and other are hauled off to prison in chapter 4

Perspectives of the Death of Jesus

1. From God's viewpoint—Christ's crucifixion was a propitiation where God's holiness and justice were fully satisfied (**Romans 3:25-26**).
2. From Jesus viewpoint— Christ's crucifixion was a sacrifice (Ephesians 5:2); it was an offering (**Hebrews 9:14**); it was an act of obedience (Philippians 2:8)
3. From Believers viewpoint— Christ's crucifixion was a substitution—the just dying for the unjust (**1 Peter 3:18**)
4. From Satan's viewpoint— Christ's crucifixion was Satan's triumph (he bruised his heel— Genesis 3:15); the triumph was short lived because it was also his ultimate defeat (**Hebrews 2:14-15**)
5. From the world's viewpoint— Christ's crucifixion was the unwarranted killing of an innocent man (**Matthew 27:4**; **John 18:38**)