

## **THE HEALING OF THE LAME MAN** **Acts 3:1-11**

An interesting little story is told in Wilmington's Guide to the Bible, pg 371, that I have also found reported in a number of other sources:

- a. "In the year 1260 A.D., Thomas Aquinas visited the Roman Catholic pope – Pope Innocent IV. The pope showed him all the fabulous wealth of the papacy. After the tour, Pope Innocent said, 'So you see, good Thomas, unlike the first pope, I cannot say, "Silver and gold have I none.'" Thomas Aquinas nodded in quiet agreement, and then said softly, 'And neither can you say, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.'"

Of course, it was the apostle Peter who said, "Silver and gold have I none" and it was Peter who said, "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

- a. And, of course, Peter uttered those words immediately before he healed the lame man at the Temple gate in Acts, chapter 3.

It's **THE HEALING OF THE LAME MAN**, and the lessons we can draw from it, that I want to speak about for a little while this morning.

Please open your Bibles and let's read Luke's account of the healing of the lame man in **Acts 3:1-11**

- a. While you're turning to that passage, I'll just mention the fact that this healing of the lame man marks the beginning of many miracles recorded in the book of Acts that were done by the apostles and others who had the gift of working miracles and signs.
  - ▶ Miracles of **Peter**:
    - Many were healed by Peter's shadow falling on them (5:15,16)
    - Peter healed Aeneas at Lydda (9:32-35)
    - Peter raised Dorcas from the dead at Joppa (9:40-42)
  - ▶ Miracles of **Phillip**: "many who were paralyzed and lame were healed" (8:7)
  - ▶ Miracles of **Stephen**: "great wonders and signs" (6:8)
  - ▶ Miracles of **Paul**:
    - Paul blinded a sorcerer at Cyprus (13:11,12)
    - He performed great signs and wonders at Iconium (14:3,4)
    - He healed a crippled man at Lystra (14:8-18)
    - He freed a demon-possessed girl at Philippi (16:18)
    - He healed many at Ephesus (19:11,12)
    - He brought Eutychas back to life at Troas (20:8-12)
    - He healed many on the Island of Malta (28:8,9)

Now let's read **Acts 3:1-11**

### **POINTS I WANT TO EMPHASIZE** **(refer to overhead slide)**

Everyone in Jerusalem knew this lame man, and knew he was lame from birth (v2; v16; 4:16)

- a. There was no possibility of the people being deceived about this healing.

The apostles were out among the people and going about their normal activities when they did this miracle of healing (v2)

- a. They were not manning a "healing room" from 10:00am to noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- b. They were not performing healings at a "healing service" in a controlled environment with pre-screened candidates for healing being brought out to them.

He was healed **by faith** – Peter's faith (v16)

- a. I want you to think about the confidence Peter had that he could heal this lame man:
  - ▶ "Such as I have I give to you."
  - ▶ NOT: "Such as I have I'm going to try to give to you"
- b. Peter said, "rise up and walk" and immediately Peter "took him by the right hand and lifted him up"
- c. Matt 17:19-20 – "Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" 20 So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief (the unbelief of the apostles); for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. 21 "However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting" (spiritual exercises of the healers that would keep their faith strong)
- d. 1Cor 13:2 – "... though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

His cure was **complete** (v8) Notice: "leaping up, stood and walked" and "perfect soundness" (v16)

His cure was **immediate** (v7) – "immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength" it was not a matter of gradual improvement

His cure was **amazing** and **undeniably miraculous** (v10,11)

- a. The people of Jerusalem were "filled with wonder and amazement" (v10)
  - ▶ The people were "greatly amazed" (v11)

His cure was **typical** of miraculous healings done by Jesus (Matthew, chapters 8,9,10)

## LESSONS TO BE LEARNED OR REMINDED OF

### 1. God does not give such power to men today.

Matt 9:8 – "Now when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men."

- a. It ought to be obvious that God is NOT giving such power to men today
  - ▶ Even the members of the Sanhedrin that had condemned Jesus to die (including Annas and Caiaphas) had to acknowledge that "a notable miracle has been done through them" ... it was "evident to all who live in Jerusalem" ... and "we cannot deny it" (4:16)
  - ▶ Where is the miracle-worker today who can cause even the unbelievers to be "amazed"?
  - ▶ Where is the miracle-worker today who can cause even the most hard-hearted enemies of Christ to acknowledge that "a notable miracle has been done" ... it is "evident to all who live in (whatever city)" ... and "we cannot deny it" (4:16)

Paul said the miraculous gifts would cease, and they have ceased.

- a. **1Cor 13:6** – “Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away.

BUT: I believe every miracle recorded in the Bible.

AND: I believe God still hears and answers prayers; and I believe that God, by His providence, is active in our lives and in the affairs of this world today.

BUT: God does NOT give men today the power to perform miracles as He did in the days of the apostles.

## **2. There are no living apostles on the earth today and there have been no apostles on the earth since the end of the First Century.**

If a man claims to be an apostle ... but he cannot do the miracles that Peter and the other apostles did ... he is a false apostle.

- a. **2Cor 12:12** – “Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.”
- b. **Rev 2:2** – “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars”

The Pope of Rome claims to be an apostle (a successor to the apostle Peter) – but he is a false apostle!

- a. He has not done, and he cannot do, “signs and wonders and mighty deeds”

The Mormon church has twelve men in Salt Lake City that claim to be apostles – but they are false apostles!

- a. They have not done, and they cannot do, “signs and wonders and mighty deeds”

There are other sects and cults who claim to have an apostle or apostles – but they are false apostles!

## **3. We need to see in the lame man’s physical problem/need a likeness to our spiritual problem/need.**

The lame man had a terrible problem that he was powerless to do anything about – he could not heal himself, and no human power could heal him.

We have a problem (the guilt of sin) and we cannot heal ourselves, and no human power can heal us.

BUT: Jesus is the Great Physician, and he CAN heal us and He is WILLING to heal us.

- a. “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1Tim 1:15)
  - ▶ He is able and willing to heal us **completely**
  - ▶ He is able and willing to heal us **immediately**

## **4. The Lord can do so much more than we ask or think**

The lame man asked the Lord's apostle for money – he had no idea that he could ask for and receive so much more than that.  
He asked for money, but he was given the ability to walk!

**Jas 4:2,3** – “Yet you do not have because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, ...”

We need to enlarge our perception of what the Lord CAN do and what He is WILLING to do – and then we need to **pray** accordingly, **live** accordingly, and **work** accordingly.

- a. Eph 3:20 – “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, ...”

The Lord can do so much more than we ask or think ...

- a. in helping us to overcome our sins and weaknesses
  - ▶ 1Cor 10:13 – “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”
  - ▶ 1Pet 5:10 – “But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle *you*.”
  - ▶ Ac 20:32 – “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”
- b. in helping us to be productive in the work He has given us to do
  - ▶ 2Cor 9:8-10 – “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: ‘He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.’ 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have *sown* and increase the fruits of your righteousness,”
  - ▶ 1Cor 3:6,7 – “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”
- c. in blessing our lives and causing even adversity to work out for our good
  - ▶ Lk 6:38 – “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”
  - ▶ Rom 8:28 – “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.”
  - ▶ Gen 50:20 – “But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”

## **5. The lame man who was healed was raised to walk, and so are we.**

The lame man was raised to walk – and walk he did – with a heart full of joy and praising God.

- a. Ac 3:6-8 – “Then Peter said, “... 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. 8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them – walking, leaping, and

praising God.”

We are raised to walk, too. We are raised to walk **in newness of life** (Rom 6:3,4)

- a. We are raised to walk **by faith** (2Cor 5:7)
  - ▶ “We walk by faith, not by sight.”
- b. We are raised to walk **in love** (Eph 5:2)
  - ▶ “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us”
- c. We are raised to walk **as children of light** (Eph 5:8)
  - ▶ “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”
- d. We are raised to walk **in the Spirit** (Gal 5:16)
  - ▶ “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”
- e. We are raised to walk **in the truth** (3Jn 3)
  - ▶ “For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.*”
- f. We are raised to walk **in the light** (1Jn 1:7)
  - ▶ “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
- g. We are raised to **walk in wisdom** (Col 4:5)
  - ▶ “Walk in wisdom toward those *who are outside*, redeeming the time.”
- h. We are raised to walk **circumspectly/carefully** (Eph 5:15)
  - ▶ “See then that you walk circumspectly (carefully), not as fools but as wise,”
- i. We are raised **to walk worthy of the Lord** (Col 1:10)
  - ▶ “that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God”

## Conclusion

As important as the healing of the lame man was, something else took place that day that was far more important – the gospel was preached to a large number of people, and many souls were saved.

The healing of the lame man caused a large crowd to gather around Peter and John and it gave opportunity for the apostles to preach the gospel and point the people to Jesus as the Healer and (more importantly) the Savior.

## Peter’s preaching:

- a. Ac 3:11 – “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. 12 So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: ‘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? 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. 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. 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. 17 Yet now, brethren, I know that you

did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers 18 But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. 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, 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. 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 (obey) in all things**, whatever He says to you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who will not **hear (obey)** that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people."""

**The response to Peter's preaching:**

- a. Acts 4:1-4 – "Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 However, **many of those who heard the word believed**; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand."

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