

## Acts Chapter Three

### Acts 3:1-5

**Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth *hour*, the hour of prayer. And a certain 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. And when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms. And Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze upon him and said, "Look at us!" And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.**

- This story comes immediately before the last invitation offered exclusively to Israel.
- It is a fulfillment of Isaiah 35:6—then shall the lame leap. (This story will lead to persecution).
- The ninth hour—this is the time when Jesus cried from the cross—"It is finished." This is the time when the priest goes in to offer incense with his prayers.
- Peter and John join in with the prayer time—not the offering of sacrifices.
- Beautiful Gate—it was made of Corinthian brass, stood 75 feet high and had huge double doors.
- Beggar wanted to be supported in the condition that he was in.
- Right outside the temple was a good place to expect alms giving— to the Jews, giving to beggars was an act of righteousness.
- Beggar sitting outside the Temple is about to have the Temple approach him. The church is leaving behind the Temple in Jerusalem—which had become nothing more than a religious shrine—a place of worldly power and resistant to the Kingdom of God.
- Peter didn't have money—but authority from Jesus to heal the sick (what I have, I give to you). We saw in chapter 2 that money had ceased to be the disciple's most valuable resource. Church can no longer say, "silver and gold have I none", neither can they say, "Rise and walk" to the lame.
- Fixed his gaze—think how often we fail to make eye contact with those who beg. There is something important about deep face to face contact.

## Acts 3:6-10

**But 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!" And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. And with a leap, he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God; 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.**

- When the command to 'walk' came—the beggar received strength.
- Peter seizes him—Peter exercises power to heal, but also has a gift of faith when he seizes his hand. Gift of faith is a supernatural ability to trust God in a situation (I Cor 12:9).
- With a leap—word means 'coming suddenly into socket of something out of place'.
- The first thing that the beggar does in response is attach himself to the apostles—going with them into the temple. Second, he immediately uses what he has been given, then his response is worship and praise.
- Since this beggar is more than 40 years old (Acts 4:22), Jesus probably passed by this same man many times.
- This miracle didn't bring people to Jesus, it aroused their interest. Peter takes advantage of this opportunity to preach. Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

## Acts 3:11-16

**And while he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, full of amazement. But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, *the one* whom you delivered up, and disowned in the presence**

**of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, *the one* whom God raised from the dead, a *fact* to which we are witnesses. "And on the basis of faith in His name, *it is* the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.**

- The name Peter begins his message with comes from Exodus 3:6. This is when God called Moses and tells him to return to Egypt and lead people from slavery to freedom. Appropriate name to use here.
- Exodus 3 is an appropriate passage to remind Israel of—when God acted miraculously to fulfill His promises and deliver His people. Peter wants his listeners to think about the Exodus, God freeing the slaves.
- Jesus uses this name when he debates with the Sadducees in the temple—Luke 20:37).
- Calls Jesus—His Servant—this identifies Him with Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and Isaiah 42. (to identify Jesus as the servant—bearing the sins of the people).
- Disowned (not to know or recognize Him)—something Peter had done as well.
- Holy and Righteous One—The Innocent One who has paid the price for the guilty (asked for a murderer). Jesus is called this in Acts 4:27, 30, 7:52, 22:14. This name is used 40x in the OT—the high and glorious name of Yahweh.
- Prince of Life—one who initiates something—brings life (to raise from the dead brings life).
- On the basis of His Name—under the authority and power of Jesus. In Hebrew thought, a name does not just identify or distinguish a person, but expresses the very nature of his being. This lesson is critical as a Christian.
- Perfect health—complete wholeness.

### **Acts 3:17-21**

**"And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ should suffer, He has thus fulfilled. "Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all**

**things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.**

- Prophecy is being fulfilled: Zechariah 12:10, Ezek 36:27-28, Isaiah 12:1-2, Isaiah 35:10
- Repent—this is what returns us to God's intended purposes.
- Return—be converted, and return to God.
- Wiped away—to blot ink from a document.
- Times of refreshing—always present and available.
- Whom heaven must receive—Jesus will remain in heaven for now
- Period of restoration of all things—a time is coming when God will restore 'all things'(restitution of a thing to its former condition). See Eph 1:10, Col 1:20, Rev 21:1, II Pet 3:13, I Cor 15:28, Rom 8:21.
- Peter invites Israel to embrace Jesus on a national level—something they must do prior to His return (Ma 23:37-39, Ro 11:25-27).

**Acts 3:22-26**

**“Moses said, ‘THE LORD GOD SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED in everything He says to you. ‘And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’ “And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and *his* successors onward, also announced these days. “It is you who are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.’ “For you first, God raised up His Servant, and sent Him to bless you by turning every one *of you* from your wicked ways.”**

- People at that time were aware of the prophecy of Moses (Deut 18:15,18-19). The Messiah and the Prophet are the same person.
- Samuel—the one who anointed Israel's first king.
- Abraham—Gen 20:7
- OT is one story—pointing ahead through the prophets the time when God would restore all things.
- Even now God is calling Israel to humble themselves—seek His mercy and forgiveness.

# Acts Chapter Three—Workbook

## Key Words:

## Harmonize:

Compare this healing with Mark 2:1-12. What is similar? What is different?

## Dig:

- 1) What does it mean—that God "has glorified His servant Jesus"? (Vs 13)
- 2) Israel 'disowned' the Messiah. How did this effect their covenant (Mosaic)? (vs 13-14)
- 3) How does the "Name of Jesus" accomplish what it does?
- 4) How is repentance tied to the forgiveness of sin? How is "refreshment" tied to the Presence of the Lord? (vs 19)
- 5) What allows our inclusion in the covenant God made with Abraham? (vs 25)
- 6) What prophets addressed this "period of restoration" referred to in vs 21? Why is it significant that it is described by the Old Testament writers and not just the New Testament writers?
- 7) What expectations did the beggar have in chapter three?
- 8) What expectation did Peter have as he interacted with the beggar?
- 9) What names for God are used in this chapter?
- 10) What is faith? How is it exercised/demonstrated?

11) What time is considered to be the time of prayer?

**Discuss:**

- 1) Why would the Temple be a good place to expect charity? (vs 2-3)
- 2) Why was it important that "the Christ should suffer"? (vs 18)
- 3) How/when does the church model faith today?

**Point of Prayer:**

Consider someone who needs a miracle from the Lord. Ask the Lord how to pray for them.

**Integrate:**

What other scriptures come to mind as you read this chapter?

**Application:**

- 1) Do you have a designated time for prayer? What are the benefits/drawbacks of having a set time? (Does an hour seem like a long/short time to pray? (vs 1)
- 2) Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you..." What have you been given to use in ministry? (vs 6)
- 3) When do you find yourself relying on your own 'power' of 'piety'? (vs 12)
- 4) How has the Lord turned you from your "wicked ways"? (vs 26)
- 5) How would you explain the concept of faith to a child?

- 6) What spiritual gifts do you see in your family members? In your own life?
- 7) Have you confronted someone concerning their sin directly (other than your children)? What was the result?
- 8) Do you know someone who has had an affliction/need for a long time? What conclusions have you drawn about their situation?