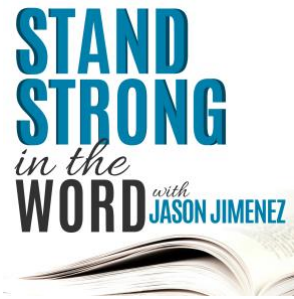


**“PETER HEALS A LAME MAN”
ACTS 3:1-26**

I. A Crippled Beggar Healed (3:1-10)

1. **Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.** The apostles remained in Jerusalem even after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost (Lk. 24:49; Ac. 1:4, 8). A big reason the apostles didn't return to Galilee is to reach more Jews with the gospel in Jerusalem. **Peter and John**—Two apostles from the inner circle of Jesus and key leaders in the early church (Gal. 2:9). **Going to the temple**—There were three times of daily prayers for Jews at the temple (Ps. 55:17). John and Peter went at the ninth hour, which is around 3:00PM. This coincides with the “evening” offering (*tamid* sacrifice).
2. **2 And a man lame (disabled in lower limbs) from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.** We don't know *who* exactly led the lame man to the outer courts of the temple, but this was a routine act for him (and possibly his family) to earn some money. **Beautiful Gate**—This could be the eastern gate (also known as the Nicanor/Corinthian Gate) that led from the court of the Gentiles and into the women's court. An ideal location to receive alms as people passed into the temple.
 - A. **3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze (to stare; to look at an object intensely) at him, as did John, and said, “Look (become aware) at us.” 5 And he fixed his attention (ready for danger; to hold fast) on them, expecting (to anticipate) to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”** Luke records that the apostles did “many wonders and signs” (2:43) after Pentecost without giving any details. However, he gives this illustrative account to highlight the magnificent power of the Holy Spirit on the apostles. **I have no silver and gold**—Peter was not a man of wealth, but he could give something of far greater value to the lame man. This is the first account of an apostle healing someone in the name of **Jesus Christ of Nazareth**. Peter wasn't a sorcerer who relied on tricks and deception. His ability to heal came by placing his faith in the powerful Name of Jesus Christ and releasing that power into the lame man (3:16; 4:10).

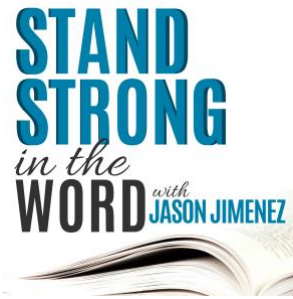


- B. *7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.* The lame man received the command by Peter in faith and reached out to take a hold of his hand and to stand up. *Feet and ankles were made strong*—Luke, the physician, offers some detail of the man regaining his abilities to walk again.
- C. *8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.* The healed man proceeds straight into the temple area jumping for joy. Isaiah prophesied of the miracles to come in the Messianic age: “Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy (35:6).”
- D. *9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.*
- 1) “Peter performed this miracle, not only to relieve the man’s handicap and save his soul, but also to prove to the Jews that the Holy Spirit had come with promised blessings. Isaiah 35:6 promises the Jews that Israel would enjoy such miracles when their Messiah was received. The man’s conduct after the miracle shows how every Christian ought to act: he entered the temple in fellowship with God’s servants and praised God. His walk was new and different, and he did not run from persecution. His was such a testimony that the officers had no explanation for what had happened.”¹

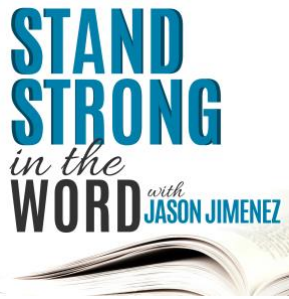
II. Peter Preaches the Gospel in the Temple (3:11-26)

1. *11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s* (eastside of the temple). The

¹ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992), 283.



- sight of the lame man healed and now inside the temple walls causes many to inquire how that was possible. This is also the place Jesus taught about the Good Shepherd (Jn. 10:23). It was a section of the temple for commerce and teaching.
2. **12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?** It was the ancient belief that some miracle-workers had the power to heal because of their extreme holiness.
 3. **13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.** Peter refers to God in the customary fashion within Jewish prayers to connect the people to the truth of Jesus. **glorified his servant Jesus**—This is a reference to the Suffering Servant in Psalm 22:1; Isaiah 52:13-53:12. **Whom you delivered over**—Peter recalls the denial and total disregard the religious leaders and many of the Jews in the crowd had regarding Jesus.
 - A. **14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you**—These are Messianic titles (Mk. 1:24; Lk. 1:35; 4:34; 1 Jn. 2:20).
 - B. **15 and you killed the Author (archēgos; Prince) of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.** Peter identifies Jesus as the Originator of life (Ps. 36:9; Heb. 2:10).
 - C. **16 And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.** Jesus told His disciples in the Upper Room they would do many great things in “His Name” (Jn. 14:12-13).
 4. **17 “And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance (reduced culpability), as did also your rulers.** Many in the crowd acted in ignorance because they didn’t realize Jesus was the Messiah (1 Cor. 2:8; 1 Tim. 1:13). This portion of Peter’s sermon is an act of mercy on the crowd’s behalf.
 - A. **18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled.** This remark encouraged the Jews to search the Scriptures for themselves to see that Jesus truly was the long-awaited Messiah. Luke provides great insight into the suffrage of the Messiah in his writings (Lk. 24:26-27, 46; Ac. 17:3; 26:22-23).
 - B. **19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out (wiped away; erased) - A person needs to repent first before they can turn back to God. Sins may be blotted out**—The Lord will forgive and restore people of their sins.



- C. ***20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus***—The ***refreshing*** is seen in the OT promises from the prophets. The Lord will restore that which has been lost (Gen. 49:10; Isa. 11:1-10; Joel 3:17-21).
- 1) ***21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.*** Jesus went to the right-hand side of the Father in heaven where He will be in the interim until He returns (2:33-34). ***Restoring all the things***—The time will ultimately come when the Lord restores His creation back to its original state.
- 2) ***22 Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’*** Peter quotes the greatest prophet, Moses, to link his words to that of Jesus Christ (see Deut. 18:19). *NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible*, “Jesus’ role as one who is both a prophet and more than a prophet is an important theme in Luke’s Gospel (Luke 4:24; 7:16, 39; 11:47–52; 13:33; 24:19–21).” ***Every soul who does not listen to that prophet***—Rejecting the prophets is essentially rejecting God.
- D. ***24 And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. 25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.’*** Going back to verse 18, Peter is showing the crowd how ***all the prophets*** spoke of Jesus the Messiah. Samuel, the first of the prophets to Israel, prophesied of the great kingdom that would come from David (1 Sam. 13:14; 15:28) and would eventually lead to the millennial reign of Christ (2 Sam. 7:10-16). ***Offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed***—Jesus didn’t just come for Israel, but came to offer salvation to all mankind.
- E. ***26 God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.*** Jesus, a Jew, came to Israel first to offer them salvation and would use His people to reach the entire world with His forgiveness.