



ACTS - Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 3

Lesson 3

To the Jews living around Jerusalem, the exciting days of miracles had come and gone with the life and death of Jesus. The wonders were many when He walked the earth, but in their eyes He had been a blasphemer, calling Himself the Son of God and so, in their minds, He had to be stopped. But had He been stopped? There was talk of a resurrection and ascension into heaven. There had been that unusual day when His followers had spoken praises to God in languages of which they had no knowledge. Now, His followers were performing the same kind of miracles Jesus had and they were giving the credit and glory to Jesus. They were beginning to discover that this Jesus they had tried to stop was absolutely unstoppable.

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 3

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *God, Jesus, Peter* and *John*.

Key Words: *God, Jesus* (and titles of Jesus), *Peter or John, faith, prophets, raised, and witnesses*

4. The contrasting word *but* was used three times in Acts 3. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
5. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used in verse 19. Mark the word and record the conclusion it was based upon.

6. Peter proclaims many titles for Jesus in this chapter. List them below:

A LAME MAN HEALED: Read Acts 3:1-8

1. Where were Peter and John going and what was their obvious purpose?
2. Share what you discover about the *lame man* from Acts 3:2 and 4:22.
 - a. Why might he have chosen this location and time of day to *ask alms*?
3. Seeing Peter and John about to enter the temple, the lame man *asked for alms*. What did Peter say to him?
 - a. What two things did these words cause the *lame man* to do?
 - b. What did he expect to receive?
4. Would Peter have needed to get the beggar's attention if he was simply going to give him coins?
 - a. Is it possible to impart something spiritual to a person who is not paying attention? To turn this around, is it possible for you to receive from the Lord when you are looking in many other directions for the answer to your needs? What does this thought mean to you today?
5. In whose name did Peter command the man to *rise up and walk*?
 - a. Peter asked the man to do the impossible. What did Peter do to help him?
 - b. Acts 3:8 reveals the *lame man's* action. What did he do?
 - 1.) What can you learn as you consider Peter's part (God's part) and the man's willingness?
 - c. Who received the glory as a result of this miracle?
 - 1.) Meditate upon the cry of Psalm 107:20-22. As you read these verses, what touched your heart that you are prompted to *give thanks to the LORD* for?

6. How would the story of the lame man differ if Peter had simply given him money?
 - a. How does this speak to you?

THE RESPONSE TO THE HEALING: Read Acts 3:9-11

1. Although the lame man who was healed was quick to praise God for his healing, what did he also do?
 - a. Why do you think people often have the tendency to *hold on* to those God has used to touch their lives?
2. Many of the people were at the temple out of ritual, expecting nothing different than the last time they came. What did the people see that day?
3. The people *knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple*. What was the result of their observation?
4. Verse 11 says that *all the people ran together...* to Solomon's Porch. They naturally desired to see the lame man who was healed. Who else were they desirous of meeting?
 - a. Why do you think they wanted to see the lame man?
 - b. Why do you think they wanted to see Peter and John?
 - 1.) Who would you have wanted to see first, the healed lame man or Peter and John? Why? (Note: there is no right answer to this ☺)
5. Go back to Acts 3:6 and ponder Peter's response to the beggar. Record Peter's words in the first half of the verse.
 - a. Although Peter did not have money to give to the beggar, he did not ignore him. Rather, what did Peter consider?

b. What resources do you have besides money that you could give to help others in need?

1.) How are you challenged by Peter's response?

6. How would the story of the lame man differ if Peter had only considered the man's request for money and realized he could not meet his request?

PETER'S SECOND SERMON: Read Acts 3:12-20

1. When Peter saw the people run to him and John, he quickly responded. What did he tell them was not the reason this man was walking?

a. According to verse 16, what was the reason?

1.) Where does this *faith come from*?

a.) What does Romans 10:17 say about this?

i.) Explain this verse as you would to someone who said they lacked *faith*.

2. Peter was quick to seize the opportunity. From verse 13-15, write the names Peter called Jesus.

a. Using these same verses, record the accusations Peter made against the people.

3. Although the people were guilty of the greatest offenses against Jesus, what did Peter acknowledge in Acts 3:17.

a. Read Jesus prayer in Luke 23:34. How did Peter's statement in Acts 3:17 reflect the heart of Jesus?

4. Peter then proclaimed the remedy for their sin in verse 19. What did he tell them to do?

a. Define the words:

repent

converted

b. What does it mean, in practical terms, to *repent* and *be converted*?

c. According to verse 19, what is the result of *repenting* and *being converted*?

THE PROPHECY OF MOSES: Read Acts 3:21-26

1. Peter was well aware of his audience. He told them that God had spoken of these things *by the mouth of His holy prophets*. Then, in concluding his message, he referred to their favorite prophet of all, Moses. Peter quoted Moses' own words from Deuteronomy 18. Using Acts 3:22,23, answer the following questions.

What did Moses say God would do?

How were the people to respond?

What would be the result of not responding as they were commanded?

2. Consider the command to *hear* the Prophet that God would raise up. What should they have been thinking when they heard Jesus say over and over again the exhortation to *hear Him*?

3. Peter was one of the three disciples who were on the mount when Jesus was transfigured. He heard the voice of God from heaven. What did he hear Him proclaim? See Mark 9:7.

a. How does this statement relate to Moses' prophesy?

4. According to Acts 3:26, why did God send Jesus?

a. Share just one way the sending of Jesus has blessed you.

REVIEW: Read Acts 3

1. What have you learned about sharing with those in need?
2. How has a knowledge of the Old Testament built up your faith in Christ?
3. What were some of the components of Peter's message?
 - a. What did you learn from Peter's approach to explain the truth?
4. What evidence of the Holy Spirit did you see working in and through Peter?
5. In what ways have you been challenged or encouraged by this lesson?

*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,
- Titus 2:11*

Observation Worksheet

Acts 3:1-26

¹ Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*. 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; ³ who, 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. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: 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. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 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. 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 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.' ²⁴ Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. 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."