

## The Acts of the Apostles

Lesson: 4

Topic: Apostolic Authority – The Word of Jesus

Reading: Acts 3:1-26

### *Scripture Analysis*

#### Verse 1

- QUESTION: Why were Peter and John going up to the temple?
  - To pray at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.
  - As Jews count their days starting at 6am, the ninth hour would be 3pm.

#### Verse 2-3

- QUESTION: What happened as they entered the temple?
  - A beggar who was crippled from birth wanted alms or money.
- QUESTION: Why was he crippled?
  - This man was crippled on account of sin.
  - All our infirmities are a result of being sinners in a fallen world.

#### Verses 4-6

- QUESTION: What did Peter say to him?
  - “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!”
  - Peter didn’t have money for the beggar.
  - He had the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ – the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name.
- “...in the name of Jesus Christ...”
  - Shorthand for the Gospel message.
  - The person and work of Jesus is the source from which all blessings flow – forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.
  - Salvation from sin was brought to the crippled man

#### Verses 7-10

- “...immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.”
  - With the forgiveness of sins for Christ’s sake, there is a restoration of health and strength to this man’s body.
  - Instantly the man’s limbs were firm, sound, and strong, ready to serve their natural purpose.
  - He was able to leap and walk.
  - He doesn’t have to be taught how to walk, he naturally does it through the Word.
  - Notice there’s no condition or prerequisite to the healing.

- However, faith has been created, which is evident by the fact he goes around praising God – telling others the Good News.
- QUESTION: What was the result of His praising God? What did the miracle cause?
  - People who knew he had been crippled from birth marveled at what had happened.

#### Verse 11

- “While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them...”
  - Can you picture this?
  - The beggar clinging to Peter and John.
  - In amazement, all eyes are on these three.
  - The crowd is looking for an explanation as to what happened.
  - The Lord had timed this miracle perfectly as to bring this whole audience before Peter and John, compelling them to preach.

#### Verses 12

- QUESTION: Is Peter or John responsible for this healing?
  - No!
  - He’s making it clear that he’s not a magician.
  - Peter preaches a sermon to reveal people the source of the healing.
  - Since he’s speaking to Jews (individuals who look to the Books of the Law and of the Prophets), he roots his sermon in the Old Testament.

#### Verse 13

- “The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob...”
  - Peter uses God’s covenant name which God gave to Moses at the burning bush.
  - Exod. 3:5-6 states:
    - “Then [God] said [to Moses], ‘Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’ And he said, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.”
- “...the God of our fathers...”
  - Peter adds, “...the God of our fathers...”
  - By saying “our,” Peter shows he hasn’t disconnected himself from the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
  - Their God is his God.
  - The Triune God.
- “...Glorified his servant Jesus...”

- God’s promises find their promises in Jesus.
- This is the same glorification that Peter preached on Pentecost (Acts 2:30-36).
  - After Christ’s crucifixion and death, God didn’t abandon Him to Hades nor did his flesh see corruption.
  - God raised Jesus from the dead and exalted Him to the right hand.

#### Verses 14-15

- “But you...”
  - Similar to his previous sermon, Peter’s using the sharpness of the Law to expose their sin.
  - He uses this incredible contrast:
    - They granted life to a murderer – a person who took the life of another.
    - They took the life of the Author of Life – the one who gives life.
  - Yet, the death of the Author of Life was necessary.
  - Through His death and resurrection, He gives life.

#### Verse 16

- QUESTION: What does Peter say ultimately healed the cripple man?
  - “His Name” – Jesus’ name – the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins.
  - NOT the act of believing but
  - WHAT is believed or the CONTENT of faith, namely the Gospel.
  - Again, with the forgiveness of sins for Christ’s sake, there is a restoration of health and strength to this man’s body.

#### Verses 17-18

- QUESTION: How many prophets did Peter say foretold the death and resurrection of the Christ for the forgiveness of sins?
  - All the prophets spoke of this.
  - So all the OT points to Christ!

#### Verses 17-26

- QUESTION: What are some of the things Peter referred to from the OT Scriptures?
  - We see:
    - Jesus is the prophet like Moses (v.22).
    - All prophets, including Samuel, foretold the days in which the Gospel of Jesus’ death and resurrection would be preached (v.24).
    - The Offspring (literally – seed) of Abraham (v. 25).
  - Peter is hammering home the fact Jesus is the fulfillment of the OT Scriptures.
- QUESTION: What does Peter call the people to in his sermon?

- Repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name.
  - Verse 19 – “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins maybe blot out.”
  - Verse 26 – “...turning every one of you from your wickedness.”
- Peter performed the miracle of healing so that he might preach the Gospel.
- So that he might show the power of forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name.

### *Terms*

#### *Catechesis Summary*

- As Jesus performed miracles according to the OT Scriptures, so that apostles performed miracles according to Jesus' promise to them.
- These miracles were signs to the Church that these men were chosen by Jesus to give His Word to the World.
- The miracles testified that the apostles were the authoritative witnesses to Jesus' death and resurrection.
- By the name of Jesus salvation from sin was brought to the crippled man,
  - And with the forgiveness of sins a restoration of health and strength to the body.
- This miracle was the occasion for Peter to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' death and resurrection to the crowds that gathered in the temple.
- His sermon on Jesus' death and resurrection was based entirely upon the OT.
- Both the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures of the OT and NT are the foundation of the Church
  - And the source of the Church's proclamation of the Gospel to the world.

#### **Learn by Heart Catechism Connection**

God's Word, like His name “LORD,” is “holy in itself.” In the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer we are praying that “it might be kept holy among us' by the faithful preaching and reception of His Word.