

The Acts of the Apostles

[Wed.] Acts Series, Acts 3.1-26- Craig A. Thurman

1 ¶ Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

ἐπὶ το αὐτο δὲ But upon the same [event?] What was the last act of chapter 2? Acts 2.46-47

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 of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

Peter and John were interrupted from going into the temple for their daily devotions ... a beggar's cry would not annoy us if we were looking out for opportunities of doing good. – Spurgeon

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: 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 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

12 ¶ And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

There are two things notable in those that the Lord chooses to do His work through:

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1. Their inability to do the task. John the baptist (Mt.3.11)
2. Their unworthiness to be used. Jacob (Gen.32.10)

The glory goes to the One who empowers and to the One who *counts* us worthy for such uses of holy service. Jesus Christ is glorified. (2Thes.1.11-12)

*13 The **God** of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, **hath glorified** his Son **Jesus**; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.*

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Whereof (meaning *of which thing*, singular) can refer to

1. To the singular fact of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Or,
2. To the whole citation of the event: their rejection, desire for another, and killing of their Messiah.

We has also two considerations. I believe both are correct.

1. The immediate context: Peter and John, as apostles. (4.33 agrees with this)
2. Based on the fuller context of this chapter which is found in 2.46. (1.8; 2.32 agrees with this).

16 And his name (whose name?) through (ἐπί) faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him (by whom?) hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

And his name, based on the faith of his name ... has made strong this lame man.

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Who is exhibiting the faith of Christ in this miracle? The lame man? The apostles? (4.16 by them) The apostles, In Jesus' name, by His faith this impotent man is made strong.

17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

before had shewed is also translated *foretold*

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted,

The first – repentance for sin. The second – repentance from sin. – John Trapp

We must have first a change of mind before we shall make a change of life. We'd as well see an Ethiopian change the color of his skin, or a leopard its spots, as for anyone change his life without a changed disposition.

The commandment is that these Jews of Israel repent of their sin of crucifying Jesus Christ, and turn to Him. (Mt.27.25 *His blood be upon us, and on our children.*) The nation, as we know from the apocalyptic gospels, is facing judgment (A.D. 70). But the individual can be spared from the aggravation of this future punishment upon their repentance. However, further than this and more important is the eternal judgment of God in wrath that stands against the sinner without Christ.

that your sins may be blotted out,

that (εἰς, because, in order that) Consider 2.38 again.

This does not mean that repentance and conversion are the cause of the forgiveness of sins. The free grace of God and the blood of Christ are the causes of pardon. (Jn.19.30 *It is finished*; Ro.8.30 from *foreknowledge to glorification*; 2Co.5.14, 15 *He died for all*; Ro.5.10 *When we were enemies we were reconciled to God*) Forgiveness of sin is indeed only manifested to

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converted, penitent sinners, who are encouraged and influenced to repent of sin, and to turn to the Lord from the promise of pardoning grace; hence, the most that can be made of such an exhortation is only this; that it is both the duty and interest of men to repent and turn to God, that they may have a discovery of the remission of their sins through the blood of Christ, and not that they shall hereby procure and obtain the thing itself. – Gill

So, there is a two-fold sense of forgiveness of sins. We, the elect of God, were forgiven of sins at Christ's death. We are reconciled to God by the death of his Son. (Ro.5.10) And then there is a reconciliation of our lives that brings us into conformity to that truth. (2Co.5.20 *be ye reconciled to God*)

when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

When ὅπως ἂν

For the Greek ὅπως ἂν see Lu.2.35 *That* the thoughts of many *may* be revealed; Acts 15.16 *That* the residue of men *might* seek after the Lord; Ro.3.4 *That* thou *mightest* be justified in thy sayings.

In order that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. – JFB

That might come times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord.

Refreshing ἀναψύχω

2Ti 1:16 *The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft **refreshed** me, and was not ashamed of my chain ...* This word is ana: again, from above + psucho: soul, life. Where the understanding has been opened to Christ it perceives a dry and desolate life and land without Him. Now it sees a new life, a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth for his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Ps.1) The message of the gospel is clear. We see Jesus Christ as the only Lord, Saviour,

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Messiah that should come. There is no other name, no other salvation, no other way, no other truth, no other life but in Jesus Christ. *Ps.105.41 He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the places like a river.*

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

This is not in reference to Christ's second coming, but rather to His coming to them in the person of the Holy Spirit for their comfort. Notice, *Jn.14.18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.* This should be connected to *Acts 2.38*, where we have virtually the same message, *Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.* (see also *Jn.7.37-39; 2Co.13.5; Ro.8.9*)

There were some who had believed in Christ who had not taken the next steps of obedience. Such certainly lose great blessings now, and greatest blessing then.

Joh 12:42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Some teach (J. Vernon McGee) that Christ would have come had Israel made a repentance here. But that is not true. The heavens will receive our Lord Jesus Christ until all things are restored by the Father to their rightful conditions or positions. What are those things needing restitution?

'3. Divine wisdom was no way surprised with this disaster [of man's fall into sin]. God had, from all eternity, laid in provisions of counsels for the recovery of all things into a better and more permanent estate than what

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was lost by sin. This is the ἀνάψυξις, the ἀποκατάστασις πάντων, the revivification of all things, the restitution of all things, Acts iii.19, 21; the ἀνακεφαλαίωσις, (KJV, gather together in one; Int. Bible, head up, my insert) or gathering all things in heaven and earth into a new head in Christ Jesus: Eph. i.10' – John Owen

3 Things to be restored:

The restoration of Israel, Mt. 19.28, 29

The restoration of the creature, Ro.8.21

The restoration of the kingdoms of this world, Re.11.15

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

In other words, the unbelieving do not continue with those trust is in Jesus Christ.

How many examples do we have of those being destroyed, just in their desert wanderings for failing to hear the word of the Lord through Moses?

There was the destruction of the rebels, Korah, Dathan, Abiram (Nu.16)

Of the 24,000 fornicators, (Nu.25.1, 9)

Many died from the serpents (Nu.21.6)

The destroyer destroyed many (Nu.14.37)

Every last one of them fell in the wilderness before it was over, but for 2: Joshua and Caleb.

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Nu 26:65 For the LORD had said of them, They shall surely die in the wilderness. And there was not left a man of them, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

This presents for us the gospel message of repentance from sin and faith towards God.

Acts 20.17 ¶ And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

These Israelites were given the message of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Proper repentance says, Jesus Christ is my Sin-bearer to God. And a proper conversion says, He is mine and I am His. We willingly identify with Him.