



And All the People Saw... Acts 3:1-11

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Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. 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; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. 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. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: 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. 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. - Acts 3:1-11

As many years as I have been reading the Scriptures, I have seen the emphasis on Acts 3 on Peter and John's Apostolic gift of healing. I have seen the emphasis upon the lame man, and his healing.

The fact of the Apostleship of Peter and John, along with their apparent faithfulness in going to the temple for prayer, is compelling, and makes for a great story. And, who can forget the reaction of the lame man to his healing; Walking, leaping, and praising God!

There was an intended audience, and emphasis. This "notable miracle" took place before an attentive crowd. You see, the miracles of Jesus and the Apostles were intended as a testimony for the Jews.

An Example of the Transitional Nature of the Book of Acts: (v.1)

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

Peter and John were going to the Temple. This would be the normative thing to do until approximately thirty five years later when Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome. Yet, God would soon raise up Paul - delivering him from his exemplary life in Judaism to reveal the “mystery.” The Church, which would be the means of the Gospel of Grace.

Psalm 55:17 *Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.*

Daniel 6:10 *Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*

The Lame Man at the Gate (v.2-3)

Acts 3:2-3 *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; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.*

- > The age of this man is not given, though by the context we can see that he had come to the Temple every day. He was a fixture there for so many.
 - # Others carried him there - he had a real physical need.
 - # The Temple was the center of Jewish life
 - & Visibility
 - & People were more apt to “visibly” give - to find favor with God. **(Matt. 6:2-3)**
 - & The Eastern Gate - the most known entrance to the Temple, more beautiful than the other nine. Some scholars believe that there was a painting of the Palace in Shushan so they could remember the freedom of the Jews by King Ahasuerus - denoting Purim.

The Expectation of the Lame Man (v.4-5)

Acts 3:4-5 *And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.*

- > Peter’s intentionality - Peter would not just give a passing glance, but would pay attention to him.
- > The man expected to receive alms from Peter. He more than likely was used to people getting his attention to make a show for themselves.

Beyond Expectation (v.6-7)

Acts 3:6-7 *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. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength.*

- > The man was expecting to receive a few coins. Maybe he would receive enough to meet his needs for food, etc.
- > But he received something he had not expected - complete healing! Immediately he received strength.

& The Name of Jesus (Acts 4:10) - Apostolic Gifts (Mark 16:17-18)
The longer ending of the Gospel of Mark is sometimes thought to not belong.

Yet, if one realizes that the “they” being talked about are the Apostles, one can see that this does belong. (Acts 2:43, 5:12)

The Immediate Result (v. 8)

Acts 3:8 *And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.*

> A notable (obvious) miracle (Acts 4:16)
> Immediate - Compare faith healers who will turn away many with real visible, physical healings. The recent video of Benny Hinn continually pushing a guy over, sending him off to other guys, and a apin in his gut was “gradually” getting better.

- \$ When Jesus, or the Apostles, healed - there was complete healing!
 - + The healing of the servant’s daughter - Mark 5:21-34 / 35-43
 - + Woman with an issue of blood - Matthew 9:20-22 / Mark 5:25-34
 - + The people of Gennesaret - Matthew 14:34-36
 - + The woman of Canaan’s daughter - Matthew 15:21-28
 - + Whoever Jesus touched - Mark 6:56
 - + This lame man (Acts 4:9-10)

& These are just a few examples in the New Testament of the miracles

The Real Object of the Miracle (v. 9)

Acts 3:9 *And all the people saw him walking and praising God:*

1 Corinthians 1:22 *For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:*

Yes, the reason why this man was healed in a visible manner, in a visible place, by a visible means, was so that those devoted to the Temple, and to worship, would be converted to Christ. There are often times people claiming miracles for the glory of God, but they usually bring glory to the “profit.”

The Effect of this miracle (v.10-11) - Acts 2:38

Acts 3:10-11 *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. 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.*

This would set up the opportunity for Peter’s 2nd great sermon following the Resurrection in the rest of the chapter - 12-36