

- 1  **Studies in Acts**  
**“A Picture of Justification by Faith”**  
**[Acts:3:1-10]**
- 2  **Review**
  1. Biblical Christianity makes you think!
  2. Christians are people who regularly come together for:
    - a) The Apostle’s doctrine
    - b) Fellowship
    - c) The breaking of bread
    - d) Prayer
- 3 
  3. Christians are people who are characterized by a fundamental “gladness” [2:46] or “joy”
  4. Christians are people who are “single-hearted” [Acts 2:46 KJV]
- 4  **The Crippled man, a symbol or parable**
  - This man, a poor, paralyzed beggar, was sitting just outside “*the Temple gate called beautiful.*”
  - A wonderful miracle took place!
  - “... *the greatest miracle is ... the transformation of a person from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness and then to a person-centric ministry.*” [Lloyd Ogilvie]
- 5  **Lessons From This Symbolic Miracle**  
**Lesson #1 - Every one of us is born in sin!**
  - Psalm 51:5 - David said: “*Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.*”
  - Psalm 58:3-4 - “*Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies. Their venom is like the venom of a snake ...*”
- 6  **A basic presupposition of the Gospel :**  
**“The Son of God left heaven and came to earth precisely because men and women are lost, paralyzed, and helpless.” [DML-J]**
  - “They are paralyzed in the matter of knowing God.”
    - Job 11:7 - KJV - “*Canst thou by searching find out God?*”
    - cf. I Cor. 2:14
  - “They are equally paralyzed in the matter of true living”

- John 10:10
- John 17:3

7 ☐

Man is also paralyzed in terms of his total inability to conquer the devil and temptation and sin.

- No one on earth has never sinned!
- There is no one who never gives in to temptation.
- How often have we repeated an action, even though we know it is wrong? [Rom. 7:18-19]

8 ☐

**Lesson #2 - The world is unable to help us!**

■ In the picture of the beggar, the world could not help him with his real problem, it could only give him alms!

■ The only thing the world can do is to give us temporary relief.

9 ☐

**Lesson #3 - The beggar expected the wrong things from the church:**

■ Acts 3:4 - Peter actually had to ask for the lame man's attention! [*"Look at us!"*]

■ Acts 3:5 - "*So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.*"

10 ☐

**This is what the church's commission is, to deal with the souls of men and women!**

- The fundamental problem of the world is the paralysis of the soul!
- The church is here to tell what you need to know to be healed of your paralysis!
- And wherein does that cure lie?

Peter said to the lame man: "*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!*"

11 ☐

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO US?**

- What we get from Jesus Christ is not merely temporary relief, but a cure!!!
- A cure for what? - For my real problem; i.e. my sin and my guilt!
  - Rom. 7:18-19 - The paralysis caused by the dominating and controlling influence of sin in my life is broken!
  - And especially my paralysis regarding my deathbed! I cannot get prepared to meet God on my own [Rom. 3:20]!!! - I am helpless! I am paralyzed! - But by dying on the cross Christ became the substitutionary sacrifice for my sins; He has dealt with my sin problem! [Psa. 103:12 & Col. 2:4]!
- DML-J - "*If you believe on God's Son and His purpose in coming into this world, God assures you that He will never look at your sins again. He has punished them in Christ. He has borne them away once and forever.*"

12 ☐

■ And, He does not stop at forgiveness! Jesus said, '*I am come that they*

*might have life, and at might have it more abundantly” - Jn. 10:10!*

■ This can happen immediately! - Acts 3:7 says, “*Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly [KJV = “immediately”] the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk.*”

13 ☐ **There is only one condition:**

- “Look at me!” [cf. I Jn. 1:3-4]!!! - Peter and John were the Apostles of Christ! The church is God’s agent, a redeemed and healed bunch of beggars [who were previously paralyzed by their sin] left behind in this world to show other beggars the way to healing!
- Then, you must believe the message you have heard and reach out your hand for help! [“JUST AS I AM!”]
- John 6:37!!!!