



## Acts 3:1-16 | Session 9 | The Miracle at the Temple Gate

### Acts 3:1-11: An Apostolic Miracle in the Temple

Verse 1—

**Peter and John went up together into the temple.** John mentioned second, Peter was the leader. They went **together** just as Jesus had sent them in Mark 6:7. (**The hour of prayer...the ninth hour.** If time was reckoned by 12-hour day/night segments, beginning at 6 PM for night, and 6 AM for day, the **ninth hour** would be 3:00 PM. A lamb sacrifice took place daily in the temple, one lamb in the morning and one in the evening, i.e., the ninth hour ([Exodus 29:39](#); See also 1 Kings 18:36, Ezra 9:4,5; Psalm 141:2; Daniel 9:21; Acts 10:30). Luke is writing about familiar Jewish customs and laws. Peter and John continued going to the temple because they were still practicing Judaism and following the law of Moses.

Verses 2,3—

The apostles had power to cast out demons, heal all manner of sickness and all manner of diseases (Matthew 10:1). **And a certain man lame from his mother's womb.** Dr. Luke makes a point to tell us this man had never been able to walk in that he was **carried**, and **laid daily at the gate of the temple which is call Beautiful.** Had Jesus walked by this man often while going into the temple, but never healed him? The exact location of this gate is unknown, however the first century historian Josephus identifies the East Gate "of Corinthian brass and greatly excelled those that were only covered with silver and gold." Certainly, that must have been **beautiful.** **Alms**, money for the poor, were giving as people **entered into the temple.** The man **seeing Peter and John.** Luke uses the Greek word *oida*, which could mean he recognized them. Had he seen them with Jesus? Did he know of the blind man Jesus healed (John 9)? Perhaps, but if so, it doesn't appear the man had any other reason for speaking to them than to ask for **alms.**

Verse 4—

**Peter, fastening his eyes upon him.** It is doubtful there was a lot of eye contact with poor, lame, beggars, but Peter looked directly at him, and told the man **Look on us.**

Verse 5, 6—

**Expecting to receive something of them.** Why else would these men be speaking to him? **Peter said,** (the spokesman, as usual), **Silver and gold have I none...in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.** This is clearly an apostolic, Kingdom, miracle. Many faith healers today build their doctrine of miraculous healing from this passage. But this healing has nothing to do with the church today. It is just as wrong read the church and its doctrine into this passage as it was when Peter gave his speech to the Jews *to repent and be baptized for the remission (or forgiveness) of sins.* This is not about you and me; it's not about us. We should rightly divide this passage and note that the dispensation of grace has not been revealed yet (Not until the apostle Paul, Acts 13:38,39). Notice Peter identifies which Jesus he is speaking of, **Jesus Christ of Nazareth.**

Verse 7,8—

**Took him by the right hand.** There may be no significance in Luke recording the **right hand** other than the right side was always highly regarded (maybe a sign of an agreement, or a covenant), while the left hand was sometimes considered *unprofitable, or unfortunate* (Genesis 48:13-14; Exodus 15:6,12). The man may have simply been right-handed and reached out to receive alms with



that hand, and then Peter grasped it. **Immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.** There was no strength training needed. He was **immediately** healed, and the Dr. describes his **feet and ankle bones** being healed. So much so the man, **leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking and leaping and praising God.** We see this kind of fake healing happening in charismatic circles, but this man's feet and ankles (and his legs) would have been atrophied and now completely restored to the degree he did not even have to learn to walk. He could walk and leap. This was a truly apostolic miracle. Luke includes **leaping** in the description since Isaiah 35:6 records a kingdom promise of what it will be like in the Messianic Kingdom when Jesus Christ rules and reigns on earth.

Verse 9-11—

**All the people saw...and they knew that it was he.** There was no question who this man was. He was recognized by everyone, and he **held Peter and John**, that is he did not let them out of his sight, and he could not let go of them, most likely in thanks and praise for what had happened to him.' **They were filled with wonder and amazement....** this would be a typical response even for us today. **Ran together unto them in the porch...called Solomon's.** A covered area where large groups of people could gather to be protected from the sun or inclement weather. Greek and Roman buildings had these kinds of *porches*. It was a long outdoor hallway supported by pillars. This may be where the Jewish assembly met *with one accord* in Acts 2:46.

#### Acts 3:12- | Peter Gives a Second Speech. Calls for Israel's Repentance

Verse 12—

**And when Peter saw it**, that is the people running to the scene and that they were **greatly wondering**, he gives his second speech containing the explanation of what has happened. **Why marvel...** This miracle was not by man's **power**. Peter ensures that he and John do not get any credit. It wasn't by **our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk**. This **wondering** and **marveling** was a phenomenon seen by all who saw apostolic miracles performed. The apostles had to fend off crowds wishing to elevate them and not God (See Acts 14:8-15).

Verse 13—

What has happened here is that God **hath glorified his Son Jesus**. Remember him? The one you delivered up to Pontus Pilate even though Pilate **was determined to let him go** (Luke 23:20).

Verses 14,15—

They had three problems. 1) They **denied the Holy One and the Just One**. 2) They **desired a murderer to be granted...** 3. They **killed the Prince of life**. But, the one they killed, **God raised from the dead whereof we are witnesses**. Peter and John had seen the risen Christ (Acts 1:3,4). The people could see they weren't crackpots since they backed up their belief by healing this lame man.

Verse 16—

**Faith.** This is the first-time **faith** appears in the book of Acts. We have determined that the 3,000 who were added to the *number of disciples*, in Acts 2:47, were not *saved* like we are saved today. Their salvation was not salvation to everlasting life by grace through faith, rather it was a call for them to *save yourselves from this untoward generation* (Acts 2:40). There is no salvation, or justification by grace through faith to be found yet. So, what has this man's faith done for him here? It has **given him this perfect soundness**. Do not read into the Scripture what is not there. It does not say, He was saved by grace through faith since that would have been impossible at this point in time.

