

Maranatha Fellowship CRC
Farmington, NM 87401

April 14, 2024. 10:00 AM

Message Series: Week 1 – The Acts of the Apostles

Message: Peter Heals a Lame Beggar and Speaks to the Onlookers

Scriptures: Acts 3:1-26

A Brief Preview:

Luke picks up the Book of Acts, where he left off in his Gospel. Acts record the initial fulfillment of the Great Commission of Mathew 28:19-20 as it traces the beginning and growth of the New Testament church. The Book of Acts perfectly realized Christ's last words before His ascension. Luke outlines the contents concisely and effectively, Acts 1:8: "You shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem [Chapters 1-7], and in all Judea and Samaria [8-12], and to the end of the earth [13-28]." Thus, Acts traces the rapid expansion of the Gospel, beginning in Jerusalem and spreading throughout the Roman Empire.

Acts Chapter 3:1-26 describes the typical evangelistic ministry among Jews in the early infant Church. We witness a good example of the team ministry of Peter and John. The evangelist Peter led the team ministry.

Today's sermon focuses on the ministry of healing to a man crippled from birth. He was begging at the temple gate called Beautiful (v.2). After the healing, the man jumped to his feet and began to walk. When everyone saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate. They were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him (v. 9-10). Peter deflected glory from himself to God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We learned from Peter's sermon from the Temple that in the many problems and opportunities of our lives and ministries, we must keep the main thing as the main thing, which is, that we must not forget to explain to folks who God is, what he has done for us in Christ, and how we should respond in obedience.

Outline:

- I. Introduction
 - A. Peter heals a blind beggar and speaks to the onlookers.
 - B. **Illus.** Compassion Chills on Mr. Everest
 - C. Perspectives on Team Ministry

- II. A Team of Less Than Two Vs. A Team of Two or More
 - A. Disadvantages of a Team of Less than Two
 - B. Four benefits of a Team of Two or More; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- III. The Team Ministry of Peter and John
 - A. The Lame Man Healed (3:1-10)
 - B. Peter's Speech (3:11-26)

- IV. The Evangelism and Witnessing - Some Practical Implications
 - A. Illus. Coffee Shop Witness
 - B. The peculiar style of ministry from the book of Acts: having a ministry partner – they went out two by two
 - C. Deflecting Glory from Self to God, v. 12
 - D. What do we find in Peter's Speech? Proclamation of the holistic message
 - E. Peter's blessings to his audience

- V. Conclusion: Peter Heals a Lame Beggar and Speaks to the Onlookers
 - A. In the many problems and opportunities of our lives and ministries, keep the main thing a main thing.
 - B. What's the main thing? Explain who God is and what he has done for us in Christ, and teach folks how we

should respond in obedience.

- C. Share the truthfulness of Christianity.
- D. Know that God has dispensed gifts of the Spirit in each one of us
- E. We must always ensure that all our ministry is done with the Spirit's power

Questions and Answers (Refer to Acts 3:1-26, NIV for answers)

1. A man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful; when he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money; it was about the time of prayer – at three in the afternoon (v.1-3).
A. True B. False
2. Peter looked straight at him, as did John (3:4a). Then, Peter said _____(3:4b). The man gave his attention, expecting to get something from them (3:5). Then, Peter said _____(3:6) Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly _____(3:7).
A. Look at us! B. Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk. C. the man's feet and ankle become strong D. All of the above E. None of the above
3. He jumped to his feet and began to _____. Then he went with them into the temple courts, _____ (3:8).
A. Walk B. Walking and Jumping, and Praising God C. Both are correct. D. None are correct
4. What happened next when all the people saw him walking and praising God? (3:9-10)
A. They recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful.
B. They were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him
C. Both are correct. D. None of the above
5. What were the contents of Peter's Speech as he spoke at Solomon's Colonnade in the Temple? (v. 11-26)
Mark: True, T or False, F
 - a. Explanation (3:12-16) T F
 - b. Accusation (3:13-15) T F
 - c. Exposition (3:13-15, 18, 21-22, 24-26) T F
 - d. Conciliation (3:17)) T F
 - e. Appeal (3:19,22) T F
 - f. Promise (3:19-22, 24-26) T F
 - g. Warning (3:23) T F
 - h. Peter frequently used the second-person plural pronoun – 'you' – which brought the message straight home – people listened! T F
6. **Take home lesson** - What did we learn about compassion, care, servanthood, and sharing the Good News of Christ today?
 - a. Find a ministry partner and work in a team of at least two b. Deflect glory from self to God c. Meet where people are, minister to people according to the gift of Spirit God has blessed you with d. Keep the main thing the main thing – never forget to share what most important: who God is and what He has done for us in Christ, and how we should respond in obedience e. One of the blessings of resurrection is that people will be turned from their wicked ways f. I'm afraid I have to disagree. g. Witness: Acts 1:8! g. All apply to me except choice f