



Acts Book Study Chapters 3-4
Sunday June 09, 2024

ACTS CHAPTER THREE

The Healing of the Lame Man at the Temple Gate (Acts 3:1-10)

The Jews had three hours of prayer daily: at 9:00 a.m. (the third hour of the day), noon (the sixth hour of the day), and 3:00 p.m. (the ninth hour of the day). Peter and John were on their way to pray.

The gate of the temple called Beautiful gate. This could not be the gates of the city, which were in the walls of the old city of Jerusalem. Scholars think that the Beautiful gate referred to here, may have been the eastern gate of the temple area, the Gate of Nicanor. The Gate of Nicanor was made chiefly of Corinthian brass and very magnificent, situated on the east side looking towards Kidron.

Look At Us (Acts 3:4)

What a bold statement for Peter to make! That was a moment unlike any other in Peter's spiritual journey. He had walked through the same gate on other occasions with Jesus and walked right past this lame man. He had walked past this same lame man along with John and other apostles on many other days, perhaps, just the day before. But today, this moment was different. Peter must have sensed a stirring deep inside him. The Holy Spirit charging his spirit with unusual supernatural faith. Suddenly, his spirit filled with an awareness, recognition and revelation of the authority and power that was his through the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit upon him. And Peter uttered those now enduring words: *"Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*

Peter raised this lame man up to his feet. God's supernatural power flowed through his feet and ankle bones and instantly they became straight and strong to hold him up. The man stood, walked, leaped and went running into the Temple, shouting, screaming and praising God uncontrollably! The crowds of people were shocked, filled with wonder, amazed!

There is nothing wrong in inviting people to reach out to us for answers, for solutions, for prayer, for help because we know that in the mighty name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can help them.



Why Today? Why Not Other Days? Why Not When Jesus Was Here?

Questions quickly fill our minds. We know Jesus was in the Temple on many occasions (Matthew 26:55), in Solomon's Porch (John 10:23) and even healed people in the temple (Matthew 21:14). Why didn't this lame man get healed when Jesus was ministering? We know Peter and John and the other apostles were praying at the Temple for many days. Why didn't this lame man get healed earlier? Why this day?

Our understanding is this. God heals in many different ways. The normal way to receive healing is through personal faith in God and His Word. This avenue to receive divine healing is available to all of us, anytime, anywhere, any condition. God also health through the gifts of the Spirit – the gifts of healings, the working of miracles and the gift of faith. This happens as the Holy Spirit chooses to release them. Faith is involved in the release of the gifts of the Spirit, and often (not always) faith is also involved in those receiving the manifestations of the Spirit. God also heals through His presence and glory as He moves sovereignly, many times independent of individual faith. We can conclude that on this particular day, at this particular moment, three a clock that afternoon, the Holy Spirit chose to release the gift of faith, the working of miracles through Peter and bring healing to this man. Peter already knew about the power of Jesus' name. He had previously seen many miracles take place in the might name of Jesus. But that day, at that moment, faith must have surged through his heart, rising to a new level beyond what he had experienced before. He would have sensed the Lord directing him in his heart that the moment had come to raise the man to his feet. And Peter, with a God-given boldness and faith equal to the task ministered to this lame man, born this way, and in this condition for 40 years.

Solomon's Porch (Acts 3:11)

The outer court of the temple or court of the Gentiles was surrounded by covered passageways supported by a range of marble columns. They were called porches and were used by the Jews and strangers as public walkways. The passageway on the eastern side of the court about 800 feet long was called Solomon's porch.

Peter's Sermon (Acts 3:11-26)

As the crowd gathered in Solomon's Porch, amazed at the healing of the lame man, Peter knew he had to respond. By this time Peter had preached many hours, many 'sermons'. He also understood the weakness of men. Let's look at this sermon and consider some of the key points.

- **Why do you look at us?** (Acts 3:12) - Peter understood that people would consider them super-powerful or super-holy to have been able to work this miracle. His first point was to get people to look away from man, away from Peter and John. Contrast



Peter's two statements "look at us" (Acts 3:4) with this "don't look at us" (Acts 3:12). As people reach out to us and as they receive help, we must point them away from ourselves to the Lord Jesus Christ who alone is able to help them.

- **The supernatural points to God and Jesus** (Acts 3:13) – In a very clear manner Peter points to God and to Jesus Christ.
- **The Holy One, The Just, The Prince of Life** (Acts 3:14-15) – Peter points to Jesus as the Holy One (sacred, consecrated) and the Just One (innocent, guiltless, sinless) and the King, Prince, Ruler, Author, Source, and Chief of life itself. He is risen and we are witnesses of His resurrection.
- **The power of Jesus' name** (Acts 3:16) – Peter shares the key, exactly what happened that cause this miracle. It was the name of Jesus, faith in the power of that name, and faith given by God, that cause this miracle.
- **These things have been foretold by the prophets** (Acts 3:18,21,24) – Peter, just as he did earlier, points back to the Scriptures, what the prophets have spoken. In this sermon account, we see him make mention of what the prophets have already spoken, three times.
- **Repent and be converted** (Acts 3:19) – As in the first sermon, there is the call to repentance and to be converted. This must have become a regular call to people. To repent is to have *a change of mind*, to be converted is to *turn around in conduct*. True repentance always leads to conversion, a change of conduct or the way we live. Peter mentions three outcomes of repenting and being converted: (a)sins be blotted out – sins will be forgiven, (b)times of refreshing – referring to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the gift of the Holy Spirit (similar to Acts 2:38-39), and (c)Jesus will return – the return of Jesus is connected to the salvation of lost souls. The Gospel has to be preached to all nations (Matthew 24:14) and the fulness of the Gentiles (full number of Gentiles) have to come into the Kingdom (Romans 11:25).
- **Times of refreshing** (Acts 3:19) – This when taken in connection with Acts 2:38-39 is understood to refer to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There will be ongoing outpourings of the Spirit that come from the presence of the Lord. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is referred to as 'seasons of refreshing'. God's Spirit bring refreshing, reviving and renewing.
- **Times of restoration** (Acts 3:21) – The Lord Jesus will remain in heaven until the times of the restoration of all things. This can be understood in two ways, both correct (a)until all things have been restored, as carried in The Passion Translation: *"For he must remain in heaven until the restoration of all things has taken place, fulfilling everything that God said long ago through his holy prophets."* (The Passion Translation). Acts 3:21 can also be understood as (b)until the time comes to restore all things, as carried in the Good News Bible: *"He must remain in heaven until the time comes for all things to be made new, as God announced through his holy*



prophets of long ago." (Good New Bible). This latter understanding seems to be carried by most translations.

- **A Prophet like Moses** (Acts 3:22-23) – Peter then points to Moses' prophecy (Deuteronomy 18:15,18,19) indicating that Jesus Christ is that Prophet whom Moses spoke about. He emphasizes that many prophets from the time of Samuel have spoken about these days.
- **The promise to Abraham** (Acts 3:25-26) – Peter also points to the promise God gave to Abraham, that through Abraham's seed all families of the earth will be blessed. He indicates that Jesus Christ is that seed through whom they, the Jews, "the sons of the prophets and of the covenant", have been blessed first with salvation.

ACTS CHAPTER FOUR

Chapter 4 records the reaction of the priests, the captain of the Temple and the Sadducees.

Captain of the temple guards for preserving peace in the temple area.

Jailed and Interrogated (4:1-22)

Peter preached the resurrection (Acts 4:1-4). About 5000 people believed in Jesus Christ after seeing the miracle and hearing Peter preach. Peter and John were jailed overnight.

The Sanhedrin (Acts 4:5-6)

An assembly of the Sanhedrin, or grand council of the Jews comprising of their rulers, elders, and scribes, came together to interrogate the two apostles, Peter and John. Caiaphas, the high priest at that time, was the son-in-law of Annas the high priest (John 18:13). Caiaphas had prophesied of Jesus (John 11:49-51; John 18:14) and was the trial judge of Jesus, Peter and others in the Early Church. Annas had been appointed high priest several times and had five sons and a son-in-law (Caiaphas) who also had held this office. Annas could have been the head of the Sanhedrin. Scholars consider the John mentioned in Acts 4:6 to be a well-known Rabbi and Alexander to be a very wealthy Jew. These had gathered together along with other family members of the high priest.

Who Gave You This Power or Authority? (Acts 4:7)

The Sanhedrin presented this question.

Peter's Response (Acts 4:8-12)

- **Peter filled with the Holy Spirit** (Acts 4:8) – The Lord Jesus had foretold of moments like these: *"But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake,*



as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.” (Matthew 10:17-20)

- **In the name of the resurrected Christ (Acts 4:10)** – Peter points to the authority of the name of Jesus and the fact that this Jesus is alive and hence His name carries miracle working power.
- **Salvation in only one name (Acts 4:12)** – Peter emphasized that salvation is only in the name of Jesus Christ.

They Had Been With Jesus (Acts 4:13)

Acts 4:13 is a very powerful testimony to what happens when the Lord calls and transforms our lives. Uneducated and untrained men, were bold, were unshaken by threats, could stand before the highest men in society unashamed and unalarmed. Just one reason – they had been with Jesus.

The Power of a Notable Miracle (Acts 4:14,16,21)

We cannot say anything against it. We cannot deny it. Everyone glorified God.

Threats Could Not Stop Them (Acts 4:17-22)

When Peter and John were threatened not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus, their response was simple – whom should we obey, God or man (Acts 4:19)? We are simply speaking the things we have seen and heard (Acts 4:20).

One Voice, In One Accord (Acts 4:23-31)

Peter and John returned to their own company, the community of faith that stood with them. They got together in praise, worship of God and declared the Word of God in prayer. They asked for more – more boldness, more signs and wonders! God filled them with the Holy Spirit again and again and they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

One Heart, One Soul (Acts 4:32-37)

They continued in great unity of heart and mind. They shared things. People sold their possessions, land, houses, etc. in order to give to the common pool, from which the needs of these thousands of people was being provided for. This was community at its highest expression.

Great Power, Great Grace (4:33)

A poignant verse describing what was happening in this Spirit filled community. There was great power through the miracles, healings, signs and wonders which attested to



the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There was great grace on this community – living in one heart and one soul, continuing in their spiritual journey, proclaiming Jesus.

Josef Named Barnabas (Acts 4:36-37)

At the end of this chapter we hear about a man Josef, whom the apostles named Barnabas, meaning son of encouragement. He must have been a great encourager and been a source of strength and encouragement to many in the community. Barnabas a man with an encouraging nature. We will hear more about him later in Acts. We will also hear of other names in the Jerusalem church community: Philip, Stephen, James the brother of Jesus Christ, Simeon, his wife and their two sons Rufus and Alexander, Silas, Agabus, John Mark and others.

SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 3-4
Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE



Acts Book Study Chapters 3-4
Sunday June 09, 2024

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Please request Life group members to read Acts 3-4, before the Life Group Meeting. This can help save time.*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, What key insights stand out for you from Peter's sermon after the healing of the lame man?

2, Reflect on how having been with Jesus, would have transformed these untrained and uneducated Galilean fishermen (Peter and John) into bold and fearless, proclaiming Jesus and working miracles in His name (Acts 4:13).



3, How should we as believers respond to professional (workplace), religious, social or civil authority, when threatened not to do something God has commanded us to do, e.g. preach the Gospel (Acts 4:19-20)? How do we balance wisdom and boldness in each situation?

4, Is it alright for the church to pray for more – more boldness, more signs and wonders – as the Early Church did (Acts 4:29-31)?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 3-4 Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The book of Acts records the first 40 years of the Early Church. This is a book study of the Acts of the apostles, or more correctly, the acts of the Holy Spirit through the early believers. As we study the book of Acts there are two compelling perspectives that we develop: (A) the Church's DNA – what a Spirit filled church would look like and (B) how the Church would go about fulfilling the Great Commission empowered by the Holy Spirit. We glean spiritual and practical insights from each chapter and share ways we can apply these in our lives. In this sermon we cover Acts chapters 3-4. We look at the healing of the lame man at the temple gate called Beautiful, and Peter's powerful sermon after that. We see how the apostles were jailed and interrogated, and their bold response to threats. We also see what happened among the community of believers as threats increased. They prayed for more – more boldness, more signs and wonders. God answered. Great power and great grace was on them, as they continued with one heart and mind.

KEYWORDS



Acts – Book Study – Chapters 3-4 Sermon Notes, Sermon Outline and Small Group Study Guide

Acts of the apostles, book study of Acts, Gospel preaching, Spirit filled church community, healing of the lame man at the gate of the temple, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the New American Standard Bible 2020, (NASB) Copyright © by The Lockman Foundation. All rights reserved.

Biblical definitions, Hebrew and Greek words and their meanings are drawn from the following resources:

Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886)