

GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

A Miracle Within a Miracle

Acts 3:1-11

Peter and John

Acts 3:1-3 (KJV) Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

- Peter and John are often found ministering together
- They were on their way to the Temple for prayer
- Peter and John were men of consistency
- This was one of three times a day they prayed
- They had three specific times of prayer everyday (9am, 12pm, and 3pm)
- Each time they prayed for an hour
- They were committed to prayer
- It's the ninth hour or 3pm., it was their evening prayer
- **When you have a prayer life, you have a prepared life**
- God can do great things through a person who is *regularly* connected to God in prayer

The Lame Man

[2] 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; [3] Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

- As they are going into the Temple for prayer, they encounter a man that has been lame since birth
- The man sitting outside the Temple gates that were called *Beautiful*
- The gates that stood 75 feet tall and 60 feet wide, it took 20 men to open and close the gates
- Every day the lame man saw people going in, but he was always on the *outside* looking in
- In those days, you couldn't go into the Temple if you had issues, if there was something wrong you
- This man looked like any other man
- What kept him out of the Temple was the fact he was lame
- He was born lame, he had never walked in his life
- This man's whole life has been lived as a cripple
- Every day the lame man was carried by others to sit outside Temple gates and ask for money
- To survive, he begs for money from the people going to temple
- Every day he was carried by others to sit outside the Temple Gate to beg for money of those going to Temple
- This man is a picture of life without Jesus Christ
 - The man at the gate lame, Without Jesus we are **lame**, unable to walk in a way that pleases God
 - The man at the gate was **poor**, Without Jesus Christ, we are spiritually bankrupt
 - The man was at the gate, but **outside** the temple, as sinners we are **separated** from God, no matter how close we may be to the door

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Peter's Concern for Hurting People

[3] Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. [4] And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. [5] And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

- The lame man “sees” Peter and John as they were going into the Temple, and he begins to go through his begging “routine”
- The lame man wanted money to support and sustain the condition he was “already in”
- This man has been down so long he could not envision his life every improving
- This is what he’s always done, and this is what he’ll always be doing
- Peter and John see *and* hear the man asking for money and they stopped going to the Temple to pray with the people *inside* because God has called them to do ministry *outside* the Temple
- Peter told the lame man, *Look at us!*
- Peter looked at the man and did not look away, he did not ignore him
- This was probably not the 1st time Peter and John saw this man, but this was the 1st time the Holy Spirit said *minister* to the man
- The ministry of the Holy Spirit is not based on ***needs***, but it’s based on ***obedience to the needs*** the Holy Spirit directs you to
- The lame man looked back at Peter and John ***expecting*** to receive money from them
- Peter was ***expecting***, too
- ***God wants us to be so moved by the needs of people that we are expecting God to work through us for the benefit of others***
- The man is expecting a few coins tossed to be tossed his way by Peter and John

Power in the Name of Jesus!

[6] 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. [7] And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. [8] And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. [9] And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

- Peter knows the man is looking for money
 - But Peter tells the man, silver and gold have I none
 - Peter was saying John and I don’t have money to give you
 - I don’t have what you are asking for
 - **What Peter was really saying to the man what you need is not found in silver or gold**
 - This lame man’s need was *salvation for his soul* and *healing for his body*, and money couldn’t do either
 - Note what Peter said: "***Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee.***"
 - Peter was saying, I don’t have what you want, but I do have what you need
 - Peter had the presence and power of Christ in his life

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- Peter was saying, what I have is power of Jesus Christ operating in my life
- **Peter said in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!**
- **Jesus' presence and power are found in Jesus' name**
- Peter exercised *his faith* in the name of Jesus took the man by the hand and lifted him up
- *Immediately* his feet and ankle bones received strength
- **And the power of Jesus' name miraculously healed him!**
- The man was not satisfied just praising God **outside** the Temple, he took his praise **into the Temple**
- The power of God has done a miracle in *his body* and in *his heart*
- As *strength* entered his feet and ankles, *faith* entered his heart
- His faith in Peter's command in Jesus' name changed his body *and* his life
- The man experienced a miracle *within* a miracle
- Which was greater? The physical miracle or the spiritual miracle?
- The *miracle of salvation* is the greatest miracle that can happen in a person's life
- **Jesus' presence and power are still working today, performing miracles and meeting the needs of God's people**
- The formerly lame went into the temple, not only to offer up his praises and thanksgivings to God, but to *hear more* from the apostles of that Jesus in whose name he had been healed and delivered

The Miracle Created an Opportunity for the Gospel

[10] 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.

- All the people that saw the man walking, leaping, and praising God knew who he was
- They remembered that was the man that *used to be* sitting outside the Temple begging for money
- They were amazed at how quickly it happened, one moment he was a beggar dependent on the kindness of people and the next moment he is on his own feet walking, leaping and praising God
- The people were amazed by the man's walk *and* his talk
- He was not the same man begging outside the Temple gates
- The miracle caused the people to gather around Peter and John
- The miracle created an opportunity for the people to hear the gospel
- Miracles produce opportunities to share the gospel because people are open to hearing the gospel
- Be like Peter, view manifestations of the miraculous power of God as opportunities share your faith