

Comments About Acts 3

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Acts. This week, we will talk about chapter 3.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Acts.

Healing at the temple

The apostles Peter and John went up to the temple at 3:00 p.m., which was the hour of prayer (Acts 3:1). While at the temple, they saw a man who had been born lame at the gate called "beautiful" (verse 2).

When the lame man saw the two apostles, he asked for alms (verse 3). The two apostles instructed the man to look at them (verse 4). The lame man looked up, expecting to receive something physical from the apostles (verse 5).

But Peter gave him the unexpected (verse 6). Peter said: "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 took the lame man by the right hand and lifted him up (verse 7). The feet and ankle bones of the lame man immediately received strength (same verse).

At that moment, the previously lame man began walking and entered the temple (verse 8). In his excitement, he continued walking, leaping and praising God (same verse).

The people in the temple saw him walking and praising God (verse 9). When the people recognized him as the lame man who had previously been at the gate called "beautiful," they wondered what had happened (verse 10).

Followed Christ's example

It comes as no surprise that Peter and John had a desire to heal people. They saw the example of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 9:35—"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

Luke 4:40—"When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them."

Peter talked

When the healed man spent time around Peter and John, the people gathered around the three of them (verse 11).

From verse 12 through 26, Peter gave an explanation that included events that had recently occurred.

- Acts 3:12—Why do you marvel that this man can now walk?
- Acts 3:13—The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (the God of our fathers) glorified His servant Jesus—whom you delivered up and denied. Pilate was going to let Him go.
- Acts 3:14—But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and you asked for a murderer to be released.
- Acts 3:15—You killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead.
- Acts 3:16—Faith in His name made this man strong.
- Acts 3:17-18—I know that you did that in ignorance, but God foretold that the Christ would suffer.
- Acts 3:19-21—Repent and be converted—that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that He may send Jesus Christ.
- Acts 3:22-23—Peter paraphrased Deuteronomy 18:15, 19.
- Acts 3:24—All the prophets since Samuel have foretold of these days.
- Acts 3:25—Peter paraphrased from Genesis 22:18.
- Acts 3:26—Peter reminded the audience that God raised up His Son and sent Him to bless the people by turning people away from their iniquities.