



The Second Sermon of the Infant Church! Acts 3:1-4:4 (Lesson #6)

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OUTLINE of Acts Chapter 3:

- 1) Peter and John proceed to the temple at 9:00am to pray (3:1)
- 2) Peter and John encounter a lame beggar at the Beautiful Gate (3:2-5)
- 3) The lame beggar is healed in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (3:6-7)
- 4) The lame beggar enters the temple, walking, leaping and praising God (3:8)
- 5) The people present were amazed and filled with wonder over what had happened (3:9-10)
- 6) At Solomon's Portico the people flocked to around Peter, John, and the man who was just healed (3:11)
- 7) Peter addressed the people asking them why they were so shocked at this miracle (3:12)
- 8) Peter preached the second sermon recorded in the Scriptures (3:13-26)
- 9) Some priests, the temple Guard, and Sadducees are greatly annoyed by what is happening and interrupt Peter and John and arrest them (4:1-3)
- 10) About 5,000 men believe on the Lord Jesus from this second sermon (4:4)

1 ¶ Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

Vs 1 - So Peter and John have left the upper room and are headed to the temple mount.

Peter and John with James made up that inner circle of disciples (Matt 17:1), Peter and John are the two disciples who prepared for the Passover (Luke 22:8), Peter and John are the only two to follow Jesus to the High Priest's house after His arrest (John 18:15), Peter and John the first of the disciples to visit the tomb after the resurrection (John 20:2). Here, Peter and John leave the upper room and head to the temple.

"Were going" is in the **imperfect tense**. The imperfect tense generally represents continual or repeated action. This likely had become a habitual practice of the early church.

Now, we had been told that they were continuing daily attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes. This was normative for the early church during this transitional time.

Notice it was the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. Luke is counting from six, so it is 3:00pm.

This is also the time of the evening daily offerings. Peter and John, proceed to the temple mount to pray at 3:00pm (Ex 29:38-42).

So, the temple mount would have been teeming with people! We do not know how much time has passed since the amazing events of Pentecost (Feast of Weeks), but we imagine not that many.

Vs 2 - Notice Luke's details: There was a man who was lame, but more than that, he was lame from birth, who was being carried, likely by friends and family and laid daily, possibly twice a day (morning and evening prayer time), but for sure the evening prayer time at the Beautiful Gate.

Here a man in a helpless and hopeless condition.

Now we are not told his age here, we are told as this story unfolds in (Acts 4:22), that this man, was "more than" forty years old and he had been born lame, he had never walked.

He was **daily at the beautiful gate**, if you went **through that gate**, you likely, sooner or later, saw him asking alms at that gate. He was likely in this same spot every day for better than 20 years (adult life).

OK, let's **quickly talk about gates**. First onto the temple mount proper, we are aware of **nine gates**. **Eight** of the nine have been located through archeological work and one, **the Tadi gate** was identified by Josephus, but we have not found that gate.

There are **four gates that different scholars have proposed** was the "**beautiful gate**." So, we cannot be sure which gate, although I am guessing the Triple Hulda gate, the main entrance onto the temple mount.

The goal of taking this man and laying him at the gate Beautiful, during the busiest times of the day was for him to ask alms of those who passed by. Oh but today, some things are going to change for this beggar!

APPLICATION: My wife often says God can change things on a dime. Never forget this, our great and sovereign God can change your circumstances in a second!

Vs 3 - It is not that Peter and John were special. This is what this man did, this was his livelihood, this is how everyday went. He just cried out for alms; it is likely he was not the only one.

This man was helpless and lived of the generosity of his fellow countrymen. You can imagine this was a **miserable existence**, but he was **alive**.

But let's be honest, if you are going to have to survive on the generosity of others, a great place to do it is before the beautiful gate on the temple mount. These are people coming to worship and they would have been much more likely to give.

Peter and John passed close enough that he saw them and asked them for alms.

Vs 4-5 - This call from the invalid caused both Peter and John to turn their gaze upon him. Maybe they had not seen him until he cried out, we do not know.

But they heard him, shifted their gaze towards him. And likely one of them, maybe both said: "**look at us!**"

So you can picture the man is crying out in all directions, but then he hears, "**look at us!**"

At this point, this guy knew he was about to receive a gift. But he could have never imagined what he was about to receive!

Vs 5 – He fixed his attention on Peter and John **expecting to receive something** (likely money) from them.

Of course he did, they had said look at us, they had engaged him. To him, this likely indicated he would receive something, and he fixes his attention on them, expecting to receive something.

6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Vs 6 - Peter speaks, I hope you see how Peter has become the leader of the apostolic band. He has taken the lead, not in the sense of authority over the others, but in the sense of the leader of the group.

APPLICATION: I have said this before, but it bears repeating. Peter **blew it in many ways**, yet God would work with Peter and God is now **working mightily through Peter**.

God is not looking for someone with a perfect resume. God is looking for someone who will walk with Jesus in the details of our life, starting today and continuing on. If that is you, God can use you and your **unique spiritual gift** to bless his church and glorify his son!

Back to the gate beautiful. Peter speaks and says I do not have any silver or gold...

Now we can imagine this was a let-down for the beggar, the man was expecting silver and gold, this was how he survived. Silver and gold, we do not have, but we do have **something priceless**, that we give to you.

In the name of Jesus Christ stand up and walk!

Then Peter commands the beggar, both verbs (rise and walk) are in the imperative tense. Peter commands the beggar to rise and walk.

Now this is **rather amazing** for Peter, in the name of Jesus has given a **command** that the man **cannot keep**. Oh, but **where God commands, God provides the grace to accomplish!**

In the name of Yeshua who is the Messiah, stand up and walk!

HOLD ON: Peter must not know what he is saying! This man has never walked. His leg muscles cannot hold his weight, his ankles have never bore weight, he has never learned to walk. What did Dr. Luke make of this miracle?

This man has **never walked** and has no idea **how to walk**. Telling a man lame from birth, who has never walked a day in his life to walk, **that's impossible!**

Notice he says in the name of Jesus Christ, in the **power and authority** of Jesus Christ stand up and walk!

Peter invoked the name and the power of Yeshua. Now, rise up and walk, it is almost like nothing happened...

Then we read:

Vs 7 - Then Peter reaches over, takes the man by the right hand. (did I tell you Luke is a man of great learning who focuses on the details). Peter took the invalid by the right hand and raised him up!

Immediately, his feet and ankle bones were **made strong**, immediately **muscles that were completely atrophied** were corrected and made strong.

In a split-second a man who had never stood up in his life not only stood but he began walking and leaping. I hope you see this is an amazing instantaneous miracle and consider all that had to happen to make this work!

By the way it is not just an instantaneous miracle, it is a complete miracle. This man is completely healed!

Vs 8 - Leaping up is a **Hapax Legomenon**. **Leaping up**, he stood, and he **began to walk**, **Can you imagine?**

Then Peter, John, and the once lame man **entered the temple** around 3:00pm. A moment ago, he was an invalid, now he is **walking, leaping, and praising God**.

He was making **quite a show**, He was **grateful and thankful** to God for what had just happened. He was **beside himself** and he was **blessing God** for the miracle **Jesus had worked** through the hands of one of the apostles.

Vs 9 - Next we see the **people's reaction to the miracle**. Here he is in the **temple complex**, walking with Peter and John and praising God. Likely most everyone, if not everyone, knew who he was, a twenty-year (or more) beggar. Thousands present saw this amazing miracle.

People saw him, they could not help but see him, he was making quite a show. Not to draw attention to himself, **but because he was thankful for what God had done for him!**

QUESTION? What would you do if you saw a man walking who you had known had been paralyzed since birth (and he was over forty)?

APPLICATION: This is a profound picture of you and I. Like the invalid, we were helpless, we could not affect our own salvation. Yet God in great mercy came to us. Told us to stand up (turn from our sins).

I hope we are at least as grateful for our eternal salvation as this man was that he could now walk.

Vs 10 - Many recognized him, I mean let's be honest he has been laying out there every day for many years.

Friends or family have been taking him daily and depositing him on a mat to beg, and they would come back that evening to take him home. But people recognized **that this was the man**, who had been **begging alms as the beautiful gate** for years.

They were: **Filled with wonder** (astonished, filled with awe) and they were **filled with amazement** over what had happened to a man who had been lame for his whole life.

Notice no one there denied this miracle for it was simply undeniable!

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 ¶ And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.

Vs 11 - So the beggar is clinging to Peter and John. I can imagine! The people there on the temple mount who were seeing this were **utterly astounded**. And the **people converged on the position** of Peter, John, and the one-time lifelong invalid, who is now walking, leaping, and praising God, they are all there at Solomon's portico.

Vs 12 - Peter sees the **crowds converging on their position**. He allows them to encircle them.

They are likely standing around them, likely asking questions, many shocked, surprised, and dismayed by what has happened. It is here that Peter launches into his **second sermon**.

First, we see Peter addresses his fellow countrymen, Men of Israel.

Second, we see that he asks the crowd two questions:

- 1) **Why do you wonder at this?** Now let's be honest, this is a weird question. If you or I saw this happen, would we not marvel? What is Peter doing? I believe he is setting this all up?
- 2) Why do you **stare at us**, as though by our **own power or piety we have made this man walk**?

This is Peter's introduction, and he quickly puts down the idea that he or John had anything to do with this man being healed! These are both set-ups for the declaration of the One who has this power, and it is the One who had displayed it for 3 ½ years!

Vs 13 - He Peter begins to recount what has happened, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, the covenant keeping God, the God they claim to worship has glorified his servant Jesus.

Here we find the **FIRST TITLE** of the **SIX TITLES** that Peter uses: **Jesus is God's servant**

Jesus is the servant of Yahweh. This title should immediately bring the Prophet Isaiah to mind and probably the most famous Messianic text in the Bible (Is 52:13-53:8).

Peter's first title that he uses of Jesus was God's "servant" and the Jews would have understood the texts he is connecting to Jesus!

The **Father glorified his son!** Whom you **whom you delivered over** and **denied** in the presence of Pilate when Pilate had decided to release Him!

POINT NUMBER ONE: You delivered over and denied God's Servant

You delivered Him over, you denied Him in the presence of Pilate, even though Pilate wanted to free him. You in a cabal with Pilate, killed him, but God has glorified Him!

Remember they (Israel) gave Jesus over to Pilate, Pilate interrogated him found no wrong and marched him out to the crowds,(Joh 19:15), further (Mat 27:24-25).

POINT NUMBER TWO: You delivered over and denied Him, but **GOD GLORIFIED HIM.**

God set him apart, God imparted glory to Him. You delivered over and denied the **One God glorified.**

14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And his name — by faith in his name — has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

Peter again, **but you denied** and we see the next two titles of Jesus.

Peter's **THIRD POINT**, and his **SECOND TITLE**, you denied the **“Holy One.”**

The Holy One, this title emphasizes the divinity of Jesus (Is 31:1; Is 43:15; Mr 1:23-24).

Next Peter's **FORTH POINT** and his **THIRD TITLE**: You **denied the Righteous One**, this **likely points to Jesus' perfect humanity** (Gen 6:9; Rom 3:10, I Jo 2:1).

Vs 14b - PETER'S FIFTH POINT: in verse 14b, **instead you asked for a murder to be granted to you.**

So, they denied the Holy and the Righteous One, then they joined the chant for a murderer to be released.

So the charges include: they delivered over the Messiah and they denied Jesus and instead asked for a murder to be set free! This is what happened! (Lu 23:16-21).

Vs 15 - Here we find Peter's **FOURTH TITLE** for Jesus: Jesus is **the Author of Life**. The Greek word **ἀρχηγός (archegos)**, means chief, prince, captain originator, source, or author.

Yeshua is the author of life (Joh 1:1-4; Col 1:15-71).

Jesus is the source, originator, and Prince of Life. Here was also see **PETER'S SIXTH POINT:** You **killed the Prince of Life.**

You have executed the most heinous crime ever committed on planet earth. You did not simply deny and kill an innocent man, you denied and killed the **Author of Life!**

Here we come to **PETER'S SEVENTH AND FINAL POINT:** God raised Him dead, and we are all witnesses of what God has done!

Again, we see the focus of the resurrection of King Jesus as a core doctrine of the early church.

Can you imagine being there that day? This is not a seeker friendly message, this is gloves off, sin exposing, calling to men and women to repentance message!

This is the un-distilled, uncorrupted, unpolluted, pure doctrine of the apostles.

Vs 16 - In the name of Jesus, **faith in the name of Jesus** – that is what has made this man strong.

Faith, that is in and through Jesus, is what has given this, up until now crippled man, the perfect health that you see this man has now in the presence of all.

Scholars are divided here if Peter is talking about the man's faith, or Peter's faith that God could heal the man.

Some see this is a statement, that when Peter looked at him, he saw a man who had faith in Jesus as Messiah, that is what has made this man whole.

Others believe, Peter is stepping out on his own faith that Jesus would heal the man. I do not know that we will settle the argument but get the key point is faith in Jesus, that is what made this man whole!

APPLICATION: Do you want to be made whole today? I mean spiritually whole. God is making that offer right now if you will receive it by faith!

17 "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago.

Vs 17 - Peter picks back up the point of the nation of Israel rejecting the Messiah and he says listen, I recognize that you acted in ignorance, as did our religious rulers.

I know that when you all were involved in executing the most heinous crime ever committed on planet earth you did so in ignorance.

Of course, **ignorance does not remove the responsibility**, but to some degree it does **lessen the nature of the crime**.

Vs 18 - But, what God has foretold by the mouth of the prophets (plural), that Christ would suffer he has fulfilled. So you acted ignorantly, but surely you must see that the Christ suffered as the prophets said he would suffer.

The verses about the Messiah suffering we have all seen fulfilled in the Christ! What you did though was foretold by God through the ancient prophets!

Once again, there is no discontinuity between divine responsibility and human autonomy and accountability. NEXT we find what Israel MUST do:

Vs 19 - Repent therefore. The therefore is based on all that Peter has said they have done in verses 12-18. Due to your acts of wickedness. **REPENT!**

Once again, Peter is calling for a change of mind about Jesus! You had charged Jesus was demon possessed you had called for his execution, you must now **"change your mind"** about the Messiah, which will result in a change of behavior because He is the Messiah!

Repent and turn back (and be converted). You turned away from God and His plan, now you must turn back! Once again, we see what comes with repentance, the forgiveness of sins!

Repent and turn back to God that your sins may be blotted out.

The Greek word translated **blotted out** is to **erase**, to **completely wipe away**, to **blot out**, to **obliterate!** This is a very strong word that means to **completely remove!**

Vs 20-21 - Repentance will bring about three things: **FIRST**, times of refreshing that will come from the presence of the Lord.

Here is what Peter is saying repent, and God will blot out your sins and send a time of refreshing from the very presence of the Lord.

So what does Peter mean by this time of refreshing? The nation of Israel was under Roman rule, they were waiting for a political Jesus and had thus crucified the Messiah, Peter is telling them that the blessings promised under the reign of the Messiah, although misunderstood are still available.

It is the comfort, the refreshment, the blessing that God pours out on His people because of the blood of Jesus Christ!

We wonder if what Peter has in mind, is the Holy Spirit, who comes from the presence of the Lord as people are refreshed in their spirits when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within them.

SECOND, he will send the Christ appointed for you. Many believe this is a reference to the return of Messiah. Peter's message was much more than Jesus is alive, it was equally that Jesus is coming back!

Notice the very same Jesus who preached unto you, and the very same Jesus who has been preached to you is coming back (I Thes 4:16-18).

In fact, the picture is this that the very heavens must hold Christ until the time of restoration. Until the time of the restoring of all things. Until the times of a restoration of a true theocracy. Which God has been promising through His Holy prophets!!

THIRDLY, in the return of the Lord is coming a time of restoration, until that day, Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, waiting until the time He comes to gather His bride and establish **His kingdom in the physical realm**.

The earth itself will be renewed in the Messianic Kingdom! This too is the time that God spoke about by the mouth of His Holy Prophets long ago! **The time of Messiah's physical kingdom!**

After providing again some explanation of Messiah's present position, Peter provides two quotations from Moses about Jesus!

22 Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' 24 And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days.

Vs 22-23 - The Peter's first quote from Moses (Deut 18:15 and 19).

So follow Peter's logic as he quotes Moses:

- 1) God would raise up a prophet from among the Israelites and they were to listen to him. **Jesus is that prophet.**
- 2) For those who will not listen to that prophet's words, God will require it of him, or as Peter states: *shall be destroyed from the people*

By the way, here we see the **SIXTH TITLE OF JESUS "prophet."** See (Joh 4:16-19; Luk 7:16-17; Joh 9:16-17).

We could go on, the sixth title that Peter uses to describe **Jesus is Prophet!**

Here he indicates FOURTHLY, judgement can be avoided! Christ is coming back! And there is a reality for everyone who will not hear Him.

They shall be destroyed! The Greek word brings with it the idea of destruction that removes one. That is what awaits all who will not hear this prophet. Jew or Gentile, male or female, fat or thin, short or tall.

I would remind us, what happened to the nation who rejected the Prophet like Moses. Less than 40 years from this point it was destroyed by Titus in 70AD. Judgment fell!

Vs 24 – FIFTHLY, Peter says: All the prophets who have spoken, starting with Samuel and all those who came after him **proclaimed these days**.

FIFTHLY: You are a privileged people living in a privileged time, do not throw that away!

In context, the days that Peter has in mind could be the days of the Messiah, or in the immediate context the days when those who rejected the words of the Messiah would be destroyed.

Either case works and both are true!

But to reject Jesus is to forfeit this great privilege and instead side with those who have not heard the prophet and who will bring upon themselves utter destruction

APPLICATION: What happened to the Messiah rejecters in 70AD is a microcosm of what will happen to the Messiah rejecters at the end of time (Mat 13:30).

25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' 26 God, having raised up his servant, sent him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness."

Vs 25 - You are sons of the prophets. You are **sons of the covenant** God made to our fathers when he said to Abraham: *'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.'*

You (Israel) have a **privileged position**, but the ultimate plan is that through the promised Messiah, all the nations of the earth would be blessed (Gen 22:18).

Vs 26 - God having raised up his servant, He sent him first to the nation of Israel to bless them, by providing a window and an opportunity to turn from your wickedness.

But do not delay, do not tarry, for there is a promised time of destruction when those who would not repent of their deeds against Messiah will suffer judgment!

Here is what Luke records happened in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:44-46).

Many in the nation of Israel **sinned away their window of grace** and **were swept away** in judgment in 70AD. But Peter is warning them here.

Peter is in the middle of his sermon and then we read:

4:1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

We will cover verses 1-3 in depth next week, but for today I want to get us to verse 4:

Vs 4 – But many who heard the message from Peter believed, repented and placed faith in God's son, and the number of "**men came to abound 5,000!**"

OK, this was where I wanted to arrive, the **fourth progress report** from Luke to Theophilus:

- 1) Following the death of Jesus the band of believers was on life support, only 120 remained.
- 2) Then Pentecost (Feast of Weeks) AD 33 and 3,000 souls are saved.
- 3) The following Pentecost the Lord is adding daily to the church rolls such as should be saved.
- 4) Many who heard what Peter proclaimed there in Solomon's Portico believed, and the number of men alone was **about 5,000**.

This is radical, unexplainable, out of control growth of the early church!
