

**Feb 23 2020**

**Peter's healing of a lame man**

**Turn in your Bibles to Acts chapter 3:**

**One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer: at three in the afternoon.**

**Think about this, Peter and John are going to the temple of God, to pray to Jesus Christ whom the temple does not recognize. So everyone at the temple is a potential convert.**

**Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called "Beautiful", where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.**

**Remember, when Jesus was with them, he healed people & taught at the temple. So, they are doing exactly what they saw Jesus do by going to the temple to teach.**

**When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.**

**When people went to the temple, they usually brought money with them, to put in the temple box.**

**Peter looked straight at him, as did John.**

**Then Peter said, “Look at us!”**

**Remember the stories Jesus told about how pious and arrogant they were? It seems that when Peter said this the man would assume he’s going to make a public giving of money to him.**

**So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.**

**Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”**

**That is not what the man expected him to say or do. So Peter helps him.**

**Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong.**

**He jumped to his feet and began to walk.**

**Peter has just changed the status quo. Peter by invoking Jesus Christ has healed the man of his lameness. Peter has done exactly what Jesus Christ would have done.**

**Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.**

**What a wonderful thing this is! He has been healed of a problem he has had since birth. He is over 40 years old.**

**But as the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called “Beautiful”, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**

**This is a miraculous thing! Through invoking Jesus Christ name Peter has healed him and all the people recognize that a miracle has taken place.**

**While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s colonnade. When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you?**

**Peter has been so completely changed by the Holy Spirit that he doesn’t really understand what the uproar is all about.**

**Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk.**

**You see, to Peter, this comes so naturally and he is so full of faith that he doesn’t understand all the hubbub.**

**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus.**

**To Peter now, it's a simple case of what they did by God's own plan.**

**You handed Him over to be killed, and you disowned Him before Pilate, though He had decided to let Him go.**

**You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.**

**You killed the Author of Life, but God raised Him from the dead.**

**The Holy Spirit, is witnessing through Peter what actually happened and Peter is telling them what they must do. To him it's a very simple black and white matter.**

**Let us continue:**

**We are witnesses of this.**

**Witnesses of what? Witnesses from the time of Jesus Christ baptism by John the Baptist; to His crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and the giving of the Holy Spirit.**

**By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong.**

**This is what I am talking about, faith in the name of Jesus Christ, obedience, following Jesus, and living a Christian life. Peter goes on to say:**

**It is Jesus name and the faith that comes through Him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.**

**Peter has reached a conclusion on the healing of this man now he's going to move on to the more important subject of what they have done.**

**Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders.**

**But this is how God fulfilled what He had foretold through all the prophets, saying that His Messiah would suffer.**

**Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that He may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you: even Jesus.**

**Peter is appealing to them, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ into their hearts and follow him.**

**Heaven must receive Him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as He promised long ago through His Holy prophets.**

**For Moses said, the Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything He tells you.**

**Anyone who does not listen to Him will be completely cut off from their people.**

**Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days.**

**And you are heirs of the prophets and of the Covenant God made with your fathers.**

**Peter is confirming what the Torah and the books of the prophets say about the Messiah, he is declaring that Jesus Christ is that Messiah.**

**He said to Abraham, through your offspring all people on earth will be blessed.**

**When God raised up His servant, He sent Him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.**

**And so Peter is pointing them to the way.**

**We will continue in chapter 4:**

**The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people.**

**They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.**

**And now, here comes the temple guard because the rulers can't have Peter and John running around condemning them.**

**They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day.**

**So just like that, they grab them and put them in jail. What a rude awakening that must've been for Peter and John.**

**But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about 5000.**

**You see, we don't realize how good their grapevine of communications was. They live by word-of-mouth as it was there only means of communication, if they didn't read and write. It also tells us, that they were very cognizant of what had happened with Jesus Christ and it was fresh in their minds. What Peter and John have done is witnessed and certified that Jesus Christ is indeed alive and continuing to work in the lives of people.**

**The next day the rulers, the elders, and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem.**

**Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family.**

**Caiaphas, the same high priest that condemned Jesus and said "That it was better for one man to die than to lose a nation." Now we are going to see what he's going to do with the problem that he made worse as far as they are concerned.**

**They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or by what name do you do this?"**

**Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!**

**If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.**

**Wow! Peter definitely has changed, filled with the Holy Spirit, he has left no doubt in their minds as to what they have done. And he is not done yet!**

**Jesus is "The stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.**

**Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”**

**Remember, this is Luke writing to Theophilus about the goings on after Jesus ascended to heaven. Peter has absolutely through the power of the Holy Spirit made the case for Jesus as the Messiah. Now, the so-called rulers will begin to understand what has happened.**

**When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.**

**Oh yes, they’re looking truth right in the face, and the rulers are very unsettled, astonished, and they know they were with Jesus. Yet, because of what they’ve done, they have no other course but to continue to fight against God.**

**But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.**

**So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together.**

**“What are we going to do with these men?” They asked.**

**In other words, they would kill them as quickly as Jesus if it wasn’t for the fact that they have a man lame from birth**

**who has been healed and Peter and John had been speaking in the temple and too many people have too much information for them to be able to overcome it. Sound familiar?**

**“Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it.**

**But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name.”**

**So here we have, the 1<sup>st</sup> persecution of the disciples, for healing a man and preaching the gospel. This sounds awfully familiar to what we see today. So can we conclude that Satan is alive and well?**

**Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.**

**And so we see, exactly what is happening today, will we overcome it? Or will we be silent, and melt away and lose our heavenly home. This will be up to you in the months and years to come as we continue to walk our Christian life.**

**But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to Him?**

**You be the judges!**

**As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.**

**After further threats they let them go.**

**They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.**

**For the man who was miraculously healed was over 40 years old.**

**On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.**

**And so, what have we learned? That Peter by doing what Jesus told him to do, found himself condemned for it, just like Jesus was. In the weeks ahead, we will see the same things happen in many different ways to many different people. It is my hope that through these difficulties that we see in the book of Acts, that we can strengthen ourselves, and resolve ourselves that we will continue to be counted among the followers of Jesus Christ. Let us pray.**