

ACTS 3

Healing of the Lame Man and Peter's Second Message to Israel

Healing of the Lame Man at the Beautiful Gate

1 Now Peter and John¹ were going up to the temple (ἱερόν)² at the ninth hour of prayer.³ 2 And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb⁴ was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful (ὡραῖος),⁵ in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he was asking to receive alms. 4 But Peter,⁶ along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said,

Look at us!

¹ Peter and John were very close with Jesus and with each other. **Mt 17:1** 1 Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up on a high mountain by themselves. **Mt 26:37** 37 [Jesus] took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. **Lk 22:8** 8 Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat it. **Jn 13:23-24** 23 There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples [John], whom Jesus loved. 24 So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, Tell who it is of whom he is speaking. **Jn 20:2-3** 2 [Mary Magdalene] ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved [John], and said to them, They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him. 3 So Peter and the other disciple [John] went forth, and they were going to the tomb. **Jn 21:7** 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved [John] said to Peter, It is the Lord. So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped), and threw himself into the sea. **Jn 21:21-22** 21 So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, Lord, and what about this man [John]? 22 Jesus said to him, If I want him to remain until I come, what is it to you? You follow me!

² **Lk 24:52-53** 52 [The disciples], after worshiping [Jesus], returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and were continually in the temple (ἱερόν) praising God. **Ac 2:46** 46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple (ἱερόν)... **Ac 5:25** 25 The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple (ἱερόν) and teaching the people!

³ "There were *three* stated hours for prayer among the Jews: the *third* hour, or about nine in the morning, when they offered the morning sacrifice, Ac 2:15; the *sixth* hour, or about twelve o'clock, Ac 10:9; and the *ninth* hour, answering to three in the afternoon, when they offered the evening sacrifice" (Smith, *NTSK*, 1238). **Ex 29:39** 39 The one lamb you shall offer in the morning and the other lamb you shall offer at twilight. **Ps 55:17** 17 Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, and [Yahweh] will hear my voice. **Da 6:10** 10 [Daniel] continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. **Da 9:21** 21 While I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering. **Lk 23:44** 44 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour. **Ac 10:3** 3 About the ninth hour of the day [Cornelius] saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, Cornelius.

⁴ **Ac 4:22** 22 The man was more than forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed. **Ac 14:8** 8 At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. **Jn 9:1-3** 1 As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither this man sinned, nor his parents, but so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

⁵ "(1) [P]ert. to an opportune point of time, happening/coming at the right time, timely...; (2) pert. to being attractive, beautiful, fair, lovely, pleasant" (*BDAG*, 1103). "This was probably the gate without the holy house on the east, made of Corinthian brass, which far surpassed the others in size and beauty; its height being 50 cubits, and its doors 40 cubits, adorned after a more costly manner, and having more massive plates of gold and silver (See Josephus, *Bel. l. v. c. 5, sec. 3*)" (Smith, *NTSK*, 1238).

⁶ Peter is an entirely new man. As readers, Luke expects us to wonder at this change in him.

5 And he was giving them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 But Peter said,

I do not possess silver and gold,⁷ but what I do have I give you.⁸ In the name of Jesus Messiah the Nazarene—walk!⁹

7 And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up. And immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. 8 With a leap he stood upright and was walking. And he entered the temple with them, walking, leaping, and praising God.¹⁰

Peter's Second Message to Israel

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the Beautiful Gate of the temple for alms, and they were filled with wonder (θάμβος) and amazement (ἔκστασις) at what had happened to him. 11 While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called portico of Solomon, utterly astounded (ἔκθαμβος). 12 Now when Peter saw this, he replied to the people:

Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. 14 But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 but put to death the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, to which we are witnesses. 16 And on the basis of faith in his name—the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know, and the faith which is through him—has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

⁷ The apostles are not motivated by money. **Mt 10:9** 9 Do not acquire gold, or silver, or copper for your money belts. **1 Co 4:11-12** 11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, are poorly clothed, are roughly treated, and are homeless. 12 And we toil, working with our own hands. When we are reviled, we bless. When we are persecuted, we endure. **2 Co 6:10** 10 As poor yet making many rich, as having nothing yet possessing all things. **2 Co 8:9** 9 You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Messiah, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. **Jas 2:5** 5 Did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom?

⁸ See *Generosity*. We are to be generous according to our present capacity. If we can't give money, we can give time. **Mk 14:8** 8 She has done what she could. She has anointed my body beforehand for the burial. **Lk 11:41** 41 Give that which is within as charity, and then all things are clean for you. **2 Co 8:12** 12 If the readiness is present, it is acceptable according to what he has, not according to what he does not have. **1 Pe 4:10** 10 As each one has received a gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

⁹ Peter bypasses the man's expressed need to meet his real need.

¹⁰ **Jn 5:5-9** 5 A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying, and knew that he had already been a long time, he said to him, Do you wish to get well? 7 The sick man answered him, Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me. 8 Jesus said to him, Get up, pick up your pallet and walk. 9 Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and was walking. **Ac 14:9-10** 9 This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, 10 said with a loud voice, Stand upright on your feet. And he leaped up and was walking.

17 And now, brothers (ἀδελφοί), I know that you behaved in ignorance (ἄγνοια),¹¹ just as your rulers (ἄρχοντες) did also. 18 But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Messiah (Χριστός) would suffer (πάσχω), he thus fulfilled. 19 Therefore change your minds (μετανοέω, aor.) and turn (ἐπιστρέφω, aor.) so that your sins (ἁμαρτία) may be wiped away (ἐξαλείφω, aor.), so that times of relaxation (ἀναψύξεως)¹² may come from the presence (πρόσωπον) of the Lord,¹³ 20 and that he may send the appointed-for-you (προχειρίζω, perf. pass.) Messiah, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time of the restoration (ἀποκαταστάσεως)¹⁴ of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from ages past (αἰών). 22 Moses said,

The Lord your God (κύριος ὁ θεὸς ὑμῶν) will raise up (ἀνίστημι) for you a prophet (προφήτης) like me from your brothers (ἀδελφῶν). To him you will give heed to everything he says to you. 23 And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.

24 And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and the successors onward, also announced these days. 25 It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham,

And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.¹⁵

26 For you [Israel] first God raised up his servant (παῖς) and sent (ἀποστέλλω) him to bless (εὐλογέω) you by turning (ἀποστρέφω, pres.) every one of you from your wickedness.

¹¹ This is a culpable ignorance, not innocent ignorance. Although they were ignorant of God's plan, they were not ignorant of the fact that, when they were killing Jesus, they were killing an innocent man.

¹² “[E]xperience of relief from obligation or trouble, *breathing space, relaxation, relief* fig., of the Messianic age” (BDAG, 75).

¹³ See *The New Covenant. Dt 30:1-6* 1 When all these things have happened to you—the blessings and the curses that I have set before you—if you call them to mind among all the nations (עַמִּים) where Yahweh your God has driven you 2 and return to Yahweh your God, and you and your children obey him with all your heart and with all your soul, just as I am commanding you today, 3 then Yahweh your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion (רחם) on you, gathering you again from all the peoples (עַמִּים) among whom Yahweh your God has scattered (פָּרַץ) you. 4 Even if you are exiled (גָּדַח) to the ends of the world, from there Yahweh your God will gather (קָבַץ) you, and from there he will bring you back. 5 Yahweh your God will bring you into the land that your ancestors possessed, and you will possess it. He will make you more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors. 6 Moreover, Yahweh your God will circumcise (מָלַךְ) your heart (לֵבָבְךָ) and the heart of your descendants, so that you will love (אָהַבְתָּ) Yahweh your God with all your heart (לֵבָבְךָ) and with all your soul (נַפְשְׁךָ), that you may have (חַיֵּךָ) life.

¹⁴ “[R]estoration, which can be var. understood...until the time for restoring everything to perfection or, as of stars in their orbits, to their starting points (...in diplomatic documents...in which the cognate vb. ἀποκαθίστημι is used of states restored by benefactors to normal conditions and stability)” (BDAG, 112).

¹⁵ See *The Abrahamic Covenant*.

Notes