

ACTS 3 – REPENT AND BE CONVERTED.

The church has gotten off to a wonderful beginning. Some 3,000 have obeyed the gospel. The Lord is adding to the church daily. Now it is time to move out and continue to preach the word. Peter and John are recorded in chapter 3. We do not know how much time has elapsed between the scenes on Pentecost and this setting that we have today.

I. The man at the Gate.

A. Peter and John

1. Hour of prayer (3 pm)
2. Why?
 - a. That's where the people are.
 - b. Ready made audience.
3. Find a lame man (from birth).
 - a. He was dependent on charity
 - b. Place where many people would pass.
 - c. Ask alms – money

B. Response

1. Acts 3:4–undivided attention.
2. Do not have money.
3. Give you what I do have.

C. Miracles (3:6-9)

1. Miracles were done: to substantiate the message (John 20:30,31; Heb. 2:3,4)
2. Miracles were done: to demonstrate the power and glory of God (John 3:2; 11:40)
3. Miracles were done: not to save people (Acts 26:15,16; 9:6-18). Through hearing the word.
4. Miracles ceased with the infancy of the church (I Cor. 13:8).
5. Why was the miracle recorded?
 - a. Possibly because it brought the apostles into conflict with the authorities.
 - b. Opposition and persecution started at this time.
6. The lame man is walking around. Never walked before.
7. Notice that he was praising God.
8. People are amazed.

II. Peter's Sermon (3:12-26)

A. Peter uses this as an opportunity to preach.

B. The miracle was the work of God to glorify Jesus.

1. Shows the humility of Peter and John. God did this!!

C. The Jews denied Jesus from ignorance (3:14-17).

1. We learn: you betrayed Him, God glorified Him—opposed God.
2. We learn: Pilate determined to release him, but you disowned Him. – opposed state and gov't.
3. We learn: You denied the Holy and Righteous one, and asked for a murderer—opposed morality and justice.
4. We learn: You killed the prince of life—opposed life itself.
5. You delivered and disowned.
6. Righteous or Just one— He was innocent, free from any of the crimes the persecutors claimed he was guilty of.
 - a. They had charged him with blasphemy during His trial (Matt. 26:65)
 - b. Charged him with sedition during his trial (Luke 23:2).
 - c. Neither of these charges could be proved.
7. Prince of life.

- a. Can mean the one who has dominion over life.
 - b. Can mean the one who is the source of life.
 - c. Most likely the latter, as if Peter is saying, Christ is the source from which life and salvation flow.
 - d. They had killed the giver of life.
8. God raised him from the dead.
9. Ignorance, not knowing...
- a. Deeds done in ignorance are still sin.
 - b. Forgiveness was available.
- D. Those things. (v.18)
- 1. What does “those things” mean?
 - a. Suffering and death of Christ.
 - b. Those things that actually occurred to Christ.
 - 2. He hath so fulfilled.
- E. You need to repent and be converted.
- 1. Repentance is a change.
 - 2. Converted
 - a. In the original, the word has the idea that the “returning” is a responsibility that each individual has. Being passive is not in the original.
 - b. The word means properly to “turn; to return to a path from which one has gone astray; and then to turn away from sins, or to forsake them.”
 - 3. This is a parallel to Acts 2:38.
- III. Christ the Prophet (3:22-23)
- A. Quote from Moses (Deut. 18:15-19)
 - B. Fulfilled in Jesus
 - 1. We learn: that God would raise up a prophet out of Israel.
 - 2. We learn: that this prophet would be the antitype of Moses.
 - 3. We learn: that this prophet would speak the will of God to men.
 - 4. We learn: that those who would not listen to the words of God, spoken through this prophet, would suffer the penalty for disobedience.
 - C. All the prophets from Samuel on foretold of these days.
 - D. You are the children or disciples of the prophets, ye are bound to believe their predictions, and obey their precepts; and not only so, but ye are entitled to their promises.
 - 1. Your duty and your interest go hand in hand; and there is not a blessing contained in the covenant which was made with your fathers but belongs to you.
 - 2. Now, as this covenant respected the blessings of the Gospel, you must believe in Jesus Christ, in order to be put in possession of all those blessings.
 - 3. You have the responsibility to turn away from iniquities and turn toward God.

Con: We learn that miracles we used to show that Peter and John are spokesmen for God. We learn that Peter and John had the courage to preach Christ and him crucified. We learn that ignorance is no excuse. We learn the importance of repentance. We learn that Christ fulfilled prophecy. We learn that all need to turn from iniquity and turn to God.