

## *Acts 3 – Peter and John in Solomon’s Porch*

### **I. Peter and John heal a lame man – 3:1-10**

- A. Peter and John @ the temple
  - 1. They head to the temple at the ninth hour, an hour of prayer (3 pm)
  - 2. The lame man was at the temple gate called “Beautiful” or Golden
    - a) Attempts by scholars to agree on the identity of the gate by one of its recognized names have met with little success although both the upper inner gate, the Nicanor, and the lower outer gate, the Shushan, have been suggested as candidates
  - 3. Lame man was lame from birth
- B. Peter addresses the lame man
  - 1. The lame man was expecting money from Peter
  - 2. While Peter did not have authority to give him money, Peter did have the authority to make the lame man whole
    - a) It is worthy to note that Peter, while perhaps not physically carrying any money, certainly had access to funds (Acts 2:45). This example corroborates other examples that show the Church is not to use the funds that are contributed by the saints to assist the needy of the world. Benevolence from the Church must remain among Christians.
  - 3. Peter makes the lame man whole “in the name of Jesus of Nazareth”
- C. Peter, John, and the lame man enter the temple
  - 1. The lame man was walking, leaping, and praising God
    - a) It’s interesting that the lame man could walk and leap, even though he had never learned to walk, as he had been lame from birth.
    - b) Imagine the joy of this one who had never been able to enter the temple until this moment.
  - 2. The people in the temple identify the lame man as the one who had sat at the gate asking for alms.
    - a) The people are filled with wonder and amazement, and their interest is piqued.

### **II. Peter addresses the multitude in Solomon’s Porch – 3:11-26**

- A. Peter corrects the people regarding whose power healed the lame man
  - 1. People gather around Peter and John in Solomon’s porch, apparently drawn by what they mistakenly thought was Peter and John’s power
    - a) Attached to the original temple of Solomon was "the porch of judgment" where King Solomon had constructed a large hall 50 cubits long and 30 cubits wide because of the enormous porch in front. This was the hall of judgment where the king would make judgments and exercise justice. The "porch" or "portico" was located on the east side of the outer court of the New Testament temple of Herod, and it rested on a massive Herodian retaining wall
  - 2. Peter corrects the people by saying that it was not his and John’s power which healed the lame man, but rather the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, through Jesus of Nazareth

3. Peter specifically identifies “faith” as being a necessary element in the healing of the lame man
- B. Peter addresses the sin that rested on the Jews at-large in their rejecting the Christ
  1. They had need of repentance, even though they had killed the Messiah in ignorance
  2. Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the prophecies spoken by the prophets, specifically Moses
    - a) It was Jesus of Nazareth that was meant by the promise of God to Abraham in that all nations of the earth would be blessed
  3. The people were to repent and accept that Jesus of Nazareth was truly raised from the dead and was received into heaven

**Questions:**

1. Why were Peter and John bothering to go to the temple, knowing that the Old Law had been done away with?
2. Why was this certain lame man placed at the gate every day?
3. How do you think this lame man, when healed and able to walk for the first time, walk and leap as though he had always been able to do this?
4. Why do you suppose the people thought that Peter and John performed this miracle of their own power?
5. What does Peter mean when he says that faith in the name of Christ had made the lame man whole? Was this faith on Peter’s part or on the lame man’s part?
6. Is there any evidence to suggest, as some Christians claim, that this lame man was actually a Christian, and therefore his faith in Christ as a Christian made him whole? Give text that suggests why or why not.
7. Why does Peter quote Old Testament prophecy?