

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 15TH, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

THE FIRST MIRACLE (ACTS 3:1–10) STILL PRIMARILY JEWISH

While the birth of the Church was a New Covenant explosion, the people were still Jewish and followed the law. Peter and John, along with the others, made a practice of going to the temple at the appointed times for worship, which included three times of prayer.

- Christianity was initially considered a sect (a break-off) of Judaism.

A GATE CALLED "BEAUTIFUL"

The temple had three courts. The outer court was for Gentiles, the court inside that was for Jewish women, and the innermost court was for Jewish men and the work of the priests. The eastern gate was known as the "Beautiful" gate, and it was the primary entrance to the temple complex. Thus, it was a great place for a lame beggar to ask for money.

LAME FROM BIRTH

This man was over 40 years of age (4:22), which meant the potential for healing had long passed. People with disabilities, especially chronic, debilitating ones, were outcasts (socially and religiously) and most often poor. Begging was the only hope he had to survive.

- **Because of Jesus, we are healed, whole, and accepted, no matter our status.**

BETTER THAN MONEY

When one has no hope that things will be better, one settles into a daily ritual of despair. The man sees Peter and John and asks for money, not healing—that hope was gone. But for this first post-Holy-Spirit miracle, God was going to shake up what people thought possible.

- Many of the Old Testament miracles were national. **New Testament miracles are very personal.**

THE HEALING NAME OF JESUS

Names often speak to the character of the person. When one hears the names of Herod, Pilate, or Judas, one immediately thinks of their character. Peter speaks the name of Jesus over the man, and he is healed completely!

- **There's power in the name of Jesus, as He is the source of life, forgiveness, and hope. Jesus is God the Son, our Lord.**

THE PURPOSE OF MIRACLES

We've already seen this, but the purpose of miracles is to **praise God** and **proclaim the gospel**.

The healed man begins to praise God. All the people recognize that this man is the one who sat and begged at the gate. As at the coming of the Spirit, people are filled with awe and astonishment.

- **Do our lives point people to Jesus?**

POINTING TO JESUS (ACTS 3:11–16)

THE COMMOTION DRAWS A CROWD

As the man continues to laugh, shout, and dance, the people gather in astonishment in Solomon's Colonnade—a place just outside the temple proper, on the east side where Jesus would sometimes teach. People ran to the men to see what was going on.

- **People may be able to deny Jesus, but they can't deny changed lives.**

THEY HAVE QUESTIONS, WE'VE GOT ANSWERS

That a miracle had occurred was undeniable. The question was how had it occurred. Peter immediately points everyone to Jesus. Yes, that same Jesus they had turned over to be crucified. That same Jesus they chose Barabbas over. That same Jesus who was killed and is risen from the dead with the disciples as witnesses.

- **Can we answer questions about Jesus?**

ONLY JESUS CAN REVERSE SIN'S EFFECTS

Sin has affected everything, from humanity to nature. Jesus died and rose again to reverse the effects of sin. He's making all things new. Any healing, physical or spiritual, gives us a glimpse of the day of Jesus' return, when sin's effects will be removed and destroyed. We believe this by faith.

- **Our faith is from and in the person of Jesus, which the name represents.**

PROPHESED (ACTS 3:17–23)

ACCOUNTABILITY

Ignorance (the lack of knowledge) isn't an excuse once information is heard. While the Jewish people and leaders may not have known Jesus was the Messiah, there is no doubt now, as God has raised Jesus from the dead.

- **Just as Jesus opened His apostles' eyes to what the OT taught about Him (Luke 24:44–49), so now Peter addresses the people.**

ALL THE PENALTY FOR SINS CAN BE WIPED OUT

Feeling the weight of what they did to Jesus, Peter once again offers hope to the question of forgiveness for sins. If they will repent (turn from their sins) and turn to Jesus, they will be forgiven, not just now, but for all of eternity.

- Mankind's greatest need isn't wealth, health, or education; **it's forgiveness of sins through faith in the finished work of Jesus.**

ETERNAL LIFE OR ETERNAL DEATH—OUR CHOICE

One day, Jesus will usher in a new Heaven, new earth, and eternal life for all who have trusted in Him. As Moses prophesied, one can have faith in Jesus (a prophet like Moses but better) or reject Jesus and be separated forever.

- If the gospel were hidden, then God's judgment would seem harsh and unfair. **But it's not hidden, and we are responsible to believe it.**

FOR ALL PEOPLE (ACTS 3:24–26) NOT JUST MOSES, BUT ALL THE PROPHETS

Samuel was considered the next prophet after Moses. So, Moses, Samuel, and all the rest of the prophets foretold the coming of Jesus.

- The Jews of that day, including the apostles, needed help to see that the OT pointed to Jesus.

Through the Spirit and the preaching, God lovingly provided that help.

NOT JUST FOR THE JEWS

As heirs of Abraham (with whom God made a covenant that all the families of the earth would be blessed through his offspring), the Jews should have seen their responsibility to take this good news about their Messiah to all the earth.

- Because of God's love for His people, He first sent Jesus to the Jews. **But God had His eye on all who are created in His image.**

OUR MISSIONARY GOD

God the Father sent God the Son by the power of God the Holy Spirit to be the Savior of all who would repent and—by faith—trust in the finished work of Jesus.

- **The people of God are now so by faith in Jesus and encompass a kaleidoscope of people from every tribe, language, people group, and nation.**

TURNING FROM YOUR EVIL WAYS

There are thoughts, words, and actions that are evil in God's sight according to His Word. Jesus died not only to remove the penalty for committing that evil but to turn humanity away from evil, no matter what our culture claims is okay.

- **Changed lives are the evidence that we belong to Jesus. Conversion results in good works; good works don't bring conversion.**

WE ARE MIRACLES. ARE WE MISSIONARIES?

- If we live for Jesus, we live as miracles who prove that He can change even the worst of us. People should see our changed lives and give glory to God.
- While living out a changed life is important, eventually we have to use words that tell people how this change occurred. **Are we ready?**

THE NAME OF JESUS

- Do we use the name of Jesus in ways that show we truly know and understand who He is and what He has done for us?
- Do we use the name of Jesus in a way that magnifies Him or minimizes Him?
- Are we ready to speak His name in a way that honors Him and blesses others?
- **Faith is a gift. Thank Him for it daily.**

OUR ONLY HOPE

- Culture can't help us, wealth can't satisfy us, health won't sustain us, and education won't improve us. **Only Jesus can.**
- **When Jesus is on the move through His people, culture, communities, cities, and countries change for His glory.**
- We have the remedy for what people need. **Do we have the resolve to tell them?**