

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 14TH-15TH, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

SOMETHING GREATER (ACTS 3:1-10) HEADED TO CHURCH

The early Christians were still faithful Jews. Peter and John were on their way to the temple on Saturday to pray, similar to us going to church.

- The disciples were not trying to avoid the Jews who rejected Jesus but **to take every step to bring them to an acknowledgement of Him.**

A POPULAR BEGGING SITE

Every day, a man who was "lame from birth" was carried by someone to the Beautiful Gate on the east side of the temple (Ch. 1). People with physical defects were not allowed to enter the temple.

- This was a great spot and time for a beggar to make money.

"LOOK AT US"

As they were entering the temple, the lame man asked for money. They responded, "I don't have silver and gold, but what I do have, I give you..."

- We are called to monetarily help those in need, but **the ultimate goal is people's salvation and transformation.**

IT IS ABOUT SEIZING MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Peter and John were full of the Spirit and aware of people around them. This opened up an opportunity to demonstrate Jesus.

- **Jesus is our greatest offering to others**, but it takes prayer and **noticing, loving, serving, and sacrificing** for others **to open opportunities to minister to them.**

"IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OF NAZARETH..."

Jesus doesn't expect us to give what we don't have. **This doesn't mean we're off the hook.**

- We must **evaluate our priorities, be willing to make life changes, fill ourselves up with His Spirit through prayer, study, and obedience, and look for opportunities to serve and pour out.**

"...GET UP AND WALK!"

Peter took the man by the hand, and "at once his feet and ankles became strong. So he jumped up and started to walk..."

- There is no mention of the man's faith at this point, but v. 16 tells us that as the man's legs grew stronger, his faith was put in Jesus and grew.

WHAT IS THE POINT OF MIRACLES?

The man who experienced a miracle started "**walking, leaping, and praising** God." The people who witnessed it recognized what God had done and were in "awe and astonishment."

- **Miracles are never superfluous.** They are physical acts **meant to point us to Jesus, and the truth garners a response** (v. 11-12).

WHY DON'T WE SEE THIS MORE TODAY?

Jesus works from culture to culture as He sees fit. **What is miraculous to some brings skepticism from others.** Physical miracles seem to happen more in desperate countries that lack access to the Bible.

- **What do we consider miraculous?** Maybe there are more around us than we realize.

THE SOURCE (ACTS 3:11-16)

REAL MINISTRY ISN'T ABOUT THE MINISTER

This chapter took place under a portico called Solomon's Colonnade that ran the length of the eastern wall of the temple's outer court.

- After the crowd realized what happened, they "ran toward" Peter and John. **True to all effective ministry, they diminished themselves and elevated Jesus.**

NOT OUR POWER OR GOODNESS

The problem with secular culture is we have **no moral standard or means by which to achieve true goodness, and we foolishly believe our abilities can change the world.**

- **We have no direction, moral compass, or ability to produce anything good without Jesus at the helm** (Jn. 15; Ps. 16).

"YOU KILLED THE SOURCE OF LIFE..." (VS. 13-15)

After they deflect the praise for the miracle to Jesus, Peter gives a brief history lesson on how the God of the patriarchs made Jesus the Savior, but people didn't recognize Him.

- **Though our sin nailed Christ to the cross, "God raised [Him] from the dead" so we can be forgiven and restored.**

THERE IS ONLY ONE "SOURCE OF LIFE"

The man was healed and "made...strong" through faith in Jesus. Because Peter and John believed, listened, and obeyed, someone was touched and changed.

- Faith in Jesus may not always result in physical healing in this life, but heart, mind, and soul change are assured through faith.

TURNING AWAY (ACTS 3:17-26)

THE NECESSITY OF KNOWLEDGE AND TRUTH

After Peter tells the spectators that they were complicit in Jesus' death, he also shows grace by admitting it was done out of ignorance.

- **Ignorance is excusable if knowledge is unavailable**, but they had **Scripture, Jesus' example, and now a miracle. Once truth is revealed, we are held accountable.**

AND IT IS THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE (JN. 8:32)

Peter tells us that if we will "**repent and turn back**" to God, our "**sins may be wiped out**" and we will experience a "**refreshing**."

- It isn't just knowing truth but **intentionally placing ourselves in the "presence of the Lord."** We do this through **prayer, the Bible, church, and obedience.**

IT HAS ALL LED TO THIS (VS. 21B-24)

From the beginning, God sent prophets to guide people and tell them that a Savior would come.

- Like refusal to listen to Moses resulted in being "cut off from the people," **refusal to listen to Jesus will result in exclusion from the Kingdom of God.**

FROM THE JEWS TO THE GLOBE

"God raised up His servant and sent Him first" to the Jewish people. Though Jesus and the truth started with the Jews, He is a blessing to "all the families of the earth," if they will listen and respond.

- It is God's desire that all people come to know Him and be saved (2 Pt. 3:9).

THE BLESSING AND MIRACLE OF SALVATION

Jesus came to "bless [us] by turning each of [us] from [our] evil ways." The wages of sin are chaos and spiritual/eternal death. Jesus does not desire for anyone to suffer that existence!

- **The healing of the man was secondary to the faith that was birthed in him that would save his soul and change his life!**

THE GREATEST MIRACLES

- God dispenses miracles as He sees fit, but **the greatest miracle we can receive is salvation and a relationship with Jesus.**
- As Christians, **we should get to know and love others, pray for opportunities to minister, study the Word, and be generous and sacrificial.**

THE SOURCE OF LIFE

- **Real love, contentment, purpose, and the ability to truly live in peace only come through Jesus and His Word.**
- When we live in sin and deny or neglect a relationship with Christ, we "kill the source of life," therefore sabotaging our eternity and impeding our ability to live well now.

TURNING US

- Sin is acting against the authority and instruction of God through His Word. **Sin takes us down a path of chaos, destruction, unfulfillment, and spiritual death (Hell).**
- **This is not what Jesus wants for us!** We are made in His image, He loves us, and He wants to turn us from death to life.

FOCUSING ON THE SOLUTION

- **Left to our own devices, we will fail.**
- Governments, economies, worldly ideologies, entertainment, philosophy, our intellect, our work ethic, etc. do not have the power to correct and change humanity, let alone save our souls from eternal destruction. **Focus on the One who can!**