

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

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

A HOLY INTERRUPTION (ACTS 3:1–5)

At this point in the history of the Church, the Believers in Jerusalem are still very much Jewish. **They don't see themselves as practicing** some new religion.

- As faithful Jews, they would have still worshipped regularly in the temple.
- The three foundations of the Jewish faith were **studying Torah**, worship, and showing kindness through **acts of charity (giving alms)**.

At 3:00 pm, **the hour of prayer**, Peter and John headed to temple, just as we might do on a **Sunday morning** (v. 1).

- There by the **temple gate (called "Beautiful")** was a man who was lame from birth.
- He was **strategically positioned by the temple gate** in the hopes of catching the eye and sympathy of faithful Jewish worshippers (v. 2).
- He was more than **40 years old** (Acts 4:22).

"... HE ASKED FOR MONEY" (V. 3).

When the lame beggar saw Peter and John, **he asked them for money**.

- He was seeking **support** for his present condition.
- Often this is what we're seeking from God, others, and all manner of things in life—**affirmation, help, and support** for us to stay as we are.
- Sometimes we're miserable as we are, but it's **what we know, and change** feels scary.

"LOOK AT US'... SO HE TURNED TO THEM, EXPECTING TO GET SOMETHING FROM THEM" (VS. 4B–5).

Most people who want to **ignore panhandlers** aren't going to make eye contact with them.

- The fact that Peter looked straight at him would've **been encouraging, if not a bit unusual**.
- What he was **expecting (and asking for)** was much different than what he was about to get.
- What **we want** is sometimes not what we need.

We're all **just like the beggar**. Spiritually crippled, we're unable to enter **God's presence**.

- God shows us His love in that **He sees us and comes for us in our brokenness** when we are unable to come to Him.
- God comes to us just as we are, but He **NEVER leaves us** as He finds us.
- We may simply be asking for **affirmation and support** in our current state...

Our world is obsessed with **finding voices to validate and approve** of whatever lifestyles we wish to live and whatever

choices we make (**however destructive or sinful they may be**).

- God loves you too much to let you stay in a **place of brokenness and sin**.
- He wants to **raise you up**, heal you, redeem your brokenness and set you free from your sin.
- *Is that what you want?*

"WHAT I HAVE, I GIVE TO YOU..." (ACTS 3:6–10)

Peter and John were both commissioned by Jesus and recognized by the early Church as **"apostles"**—Jesus' **special ambassadors**.

- Acts 2:43 tells us that **"many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles."**
- These **miracles ("signs and wonders")** authenticated the apostles' **calling from Jesus**, validated the gospel message as true, and **confirmed the resurrection of Jesus**.

"... WHAT I DO HAVE, I GIVE YOU..."

Peter didn't have any money, but he did have **authority from Jesus to heal**.

- Caring for the poor and sick is part of our Christian responsibility, but if it **ends there**, we're missing giving away the most precious thing we have: **the healing, saving power of Jesus**.
- What humanity needs **isn't money or to have their immediate needs met**. They need Jesus.

"IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST... GET UP AND WALK!"

After Peter spoke these words, **he boldly took the beggar by the hand** and raised him up as the man's feet and ankles became strong.

- This formerly lame beggar started **walking, jumping, and praising God** as he entered the **temple (perhaps for the first time)** with Peter and John!
- This was all because of the **power of Jesus**.

All of the people who had seen the man beg **outside the temple** every day (and knew him as the lame beggar) were filled with awe and astonishment—he was jumping and dancing!

- The **greatest witness of the power of Jesus** is changed lives.
- Do **the people in your life see the change that's happened in you** because of the work of God to **heal, redeem, and save** you?

THE REAL SOURCE OF POWER (ACTS 3:11–16)

WHY DO YOU THINK WE'VE DONE SOMETHING GREAT??

Solomon's Portico (or "Colonnade") was a covered porch running along the entire eastern portion of the temple's **outer court**.

- And in that court, a **large crowd gathered because of this miracle**.
- The healed man hung on to Peter and John—perhaps out of surprise, love, gratitude, or great **awe of what had just happened**.

All true gospel ministry begins with **proper credit given**. In v. 12, Peter basically says, "Why are you staring like I'm the one who did this?"

- God is the source behind every blessing that is given! **We're just conduits for that blessing**.
- Any mighty work done by the hands of disciples of Jesus is not because of their own power or godliness—**it's because of God's power**.

Starting with Abraham, Peter explains to these people that **Jesus was the Messiah** of the Jews and the **chosen one of God**.

- Peter then charges the crowd with **killing "the source of life," denying "the Holy and Righteous One,"** and choosing a murderer to be released (**Barabbas**) over Jesus!
- This is a bit **straightforward** and doesn't look like a lot of **gospel presentations** we see today.

Peter speaks directly: *you handed Him over, you disowned Him, you asked for a murderer to be released, and finally, you killed Him!*

- This must have been a **tough pill to swallow**.
- Who killed Jesus? **I did, and you did**. Our sin is what nailed Him to that cross.
- Until we are ready to own the responsibility and reality of our sin, **we will never truly understand hat the gospel** is good news.

Jesus's death and our guilt in His death aren't the totality of the gospel. The **resurrection of Jesus** speaks to **God triumphing** over our sin.

- Peter says that it's **"faith...through Jesus"** that healed the lame beggar, nothing else.
- You may not understand much about the nuances and complexities of Christian theology, but faith in Jesus is all you need to be saved.

ALL OF US STAND GUILTY BEFORE GOD.

Our sin has separated us from Him, and **that's the very sin Jesus went to the cross** to pay for.

- Jesus is **stronger than the power of our sin** and can redeem, forgive, and rescue us from sin and its penalty.
- Our response is simply to repent, call on, and trust in **the name of Jesus** with simple, childlike faith.

THE MESSAGE OF MINISTRY (ACTS 3:17–26)

ACTING IN IGNORANCE (VS. 17–18).

Without backing away from the reality of their guilt, Peter acknowledges **that they had no idea what they were doing** when they killed Jesus.

- Most people live with a **vague sense of guilt, brokenness, and inadequacy**, but they're not quite sure why or how to fix it.
- Most people don't have any idea that **the real problem is sin** and that **sin crucified Jesus**.

REFRESHING AND RESTORATION (VS. 19–21).

The beautiful truth of Jesus is that **ALL** our sins—what we've **done**, what we **haven't done**, **intentional sins**, and **unintentional sins**—can be **"wiped out."**

- **"Seasons of refreshing"** can come from God if we will **repent and turn to Jesus**.
- There is a **coming restoration of all things**, but that restoration can be felt now in our lives.

REJECTING GOD'S PROPHET JESUS (VS. 22–26).

The hearers that day in the temple would **obviously have been very familiar with the law and Moses**, so this reference to Moses is extremely intentional and important.

- Peter was saying that **belief in Moses should produce belief** in Jesus.
- This **"prophet"** that Moses spoke of in Deuteronomy 18 was Jesus (vs. 22–23).

It wasn't just Moses who spoke of the Christ—all the **prophets foretold** the coming of the Messiah (v. 24).

- Peter tells these Jewish worshippers that this is **their heritage** and that **Jesus is their Messiah** (v. 25).
- God raised up Jesus and sent Him first to the **Jewish people as a blessing** so they could turn from their evil ways (v. 26).

THERE IS A CONSEQUENCE FOR REJECTING JESUS.

V. 23 says that **"everyone who does not listen... will be completely cut off from the people."**

- When we reject **God's offer of salvation in Christ**, we're **rejecting new life, forgiveness of sins, blessing**, and seasons of refreshing from the very presence of the Lord—we're saying "no" to these things and "yes" to eternal **judgment and separation** from God.

HOLY INTERRUPTIONS

- Do we **SEE** people?
- Are we willing to let ourselves **be interrupted** or **inconvenienced** for the sake of seeing someone encounter Christ through us?
- If God's people truly let themselves be **influenced, guided**, and led by the **Holy Spirit** everywhere we went, we would see the gospel proclaimed in **POWERFUL** ways in our **community**.

ALL THIS... FOR JUST ONE GUY?

- In Chapter 2, **3,000 people got saved and were baptized**, and **it's mentioned in one verse** (2:41). But almost 10 verses of Chapter 3 are about one **lame beggar getting healed**.
- Could it be that God cares this deeply for the **spiritual and physical needs** of the individual? Even those **who feel lost in the crowd?**
- Do we see **the ONE?** Who is our **ONE?**

THE HEALING WE TRULY NEED

- Sometimes **what we want from God (and from others)** is simply validation, affirmation, or approval for what we want to do, believe, or think **so we can stay where we are**.
- God **loves you too much** for that. He wants to heal you of your **greatest sickness (sin)** and bless you with **new life, forgiveness, and seasons of refreshing** through Jesus.