

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 15TH, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

LAME FROM BIRTH ACTS (3:1-10) APOSTLES VS. DISCIPLES

Everyone who believes in Jesus is a disciple ("learner") of Jesus, but an apostle ("one who is sent") was a special ambassador given power and authority by the one who sent them.

- Acts 2:43 said, "many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles," and this passage tells us about one of those instances.

THE HOUR OF PRAYER

Luke thought it important to mention that the apostles were going to the temple for "the time of prayer." This would have been the hour of prayer that followed the afternoon sacrifices.

- There was no issue with them continuing the Jewish custom of praying at certain times, but the custom for sacrifices was fulfilled through Christ and was no longer necessary

THE GATE CALLED BEAUTIFUL

The gate was described by the Jewish historian Josephus as being 75 feet tall with double doors made of Corinthian brass.

- There was a man who had been unable to walk since birth who was placed outside the gate daily to receive support from people going to the temple. It was a tradition to give to the poor in this way as an act of righteousness.

HE MAKES A WAY WHERE THERE IS NO WAY

The man, who was lame from birth, was looking for support in his condition. But Jesus, through His apostles, wanted to change the man's condition.

- Do we look to Jesus to put His stamp of approval on our situations and support us? Or are we willing to look to Him for another option we may not see and allow Him to completely change our situation?

"FIXING HIS EYES ON HIM" (V. 4, NKJV)

Instead of trying to avoid eye contact with the man, Peter fixed his eyes on him. This likely signaled to the man that he was about to receive a monetary donation, which he would have been satisfied with, but the apostles had something so much better than temporary relief.

- Are we willing to settle for something "less than" or temporary when God offers so much more?

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

Peter could not offer this man something he did not have himself. He could not offer power in the name of Jesus if he had not experienced the power of Jesus in his own life.

- We cannot tell others to "get up and walk" by allowing Jesus to transform their lives if we have not received the power of Jesus to transform our own.

"THEY RECOGNIZED THAT HE WAS THE ONE..."

Luke records that "at once his feet and ankles became strong." This beggar, lame from birth, was known by many, and "they were filled with awe and astonishment" at his healing.

- This miraculous healing obviously benefited the man who was once the lame beggar, but it would also be used as an undeniable testimony to all of those who knew him.

STRENGTH IN HIS NAME (ACTS 3:11-16) MIRACLES SERVE AS A DOOR TO SHARING THE GOSPEL

As the healed man clung to Peter and John, Peter again took advantage of the increasing crowd and shared a message about the power behind the miraculous healing they had witnessed.

- Peter knew the crowds were greatly amazed, but saving faith doesn't come from seeing or hearing about miracles. Faith comes from hearing the message about Christ (Rom. 10:17).

"WHY ARE YOU AMAZED AT THIS?"

Peter made sure the crowd knew that this man's healing was not of their own power or godliness. Jesus healed the man, just as He had done repeatedly when He walked the earth.

- The God of Israel glorified Jesus. Though Pilate, the Roman governor, wanted to let Him go, the Jewish people had Him crucified.

IGNORANCE IS NOT AN EXCUSE

Peter wanted them to see that they were all responsible for handing God in flesh ("the Holy and Righteous One") over to be killed while embracing a criminal and murderer named Barabbas.

- Though they acted in ignorance (v. 17), it did not excuse their guilt, just as our ignorance does not excuse us.

"YOU KILLED THE SOURCE OF LIFE..."

The one who gives life willingly gave up His, but He did not remain dead. Peter says, "God raised [Him] from the dead." They were all "witnesses of this."

- At this point in Acts, Peter was on a "spiritual high," but the "lows" were coming. The fact that the disciples saw and touched the resurrected Jesus helped them cling to their faith during real persecution.

WHERE DO WE PLACE OUR FAITH?

"By faith in His name, His name has made this man strong..."

- It is not mentioned whose faith made him strong. We don't hear anything about the beggar's faith. So, was it his faith or the apostles' faith? Luke doesn't want us to focus on the faith of an individual but that their faith, whoever's it was, was in Jesus.

SEASONS OF REFRESHING (ACTS 3:17-26) GOD KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING

Though the people and leaders did not know what they were doing, God absolutely did. Jesus' crucifixion and suffering fulfilled prophecy the people were familiar with, like Isaiah 53.

- Peter's invitation to the crowd to repent and turn back is alluding to Jesus' words on the cross: "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing" (Luke. 23:34).

HE RESURRECTED, ASCENDED, AND WILL RETURN

In the invitation to repent and turn back, Peter shares two promises to give them hope for the future. The first is a time of refreshing that comes from the presence of the Lord until the second promise is fulfilled—He will return!

- In times of trouble in this life, we are not alone. His Spirit is with us until He returns to restore all things.

"ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH WILL BE BLESSED"

Peter uses the words of Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19) to show that every prophet from Samuel through John the Baptist looked forward to the coming Messiah. Hidden in the words to Abraham (Genesis 12:3) was the expansion of the gospel to all the world.

- In Acts 2 and 3, Peter intended for the listeners to do something about what he said.

WHAT DO WE EXPECT FROM GOD?

To a Jewish audience, Peter said, "God raised up his servant and sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your evil ways."

- God desires to bless us, but His desire includes us turning from our sins. Just like the lame man outside the gate and the people Peter preached to, we cling to our desires when God wants something greater for us.

LAME FROM BIRTH

- We are all born into some type of sin because of the fall of humanity through Adam (Genesis 3).
- Sin and death entered the world through Adam's disobedience, but through Jesus' obedience we are offered life (Romans 5:12-21).
- Will we stay in the likeness of the "man of earth" or put on the likeness of the "man of heaven" (1 Corinthians 15:45-49)?

FAITH IN HIS NAME

- Where do we place our faith? Is it in ourselves—our own abilities, knowledge, or strength?
- When it comes to ministry, do we understand that to be effective, we must deny ourselves and be full of the Holy Spirit?
- "He must become greater; I must become less" (John 3:30, NIV).

EXPECTATIONS

- We cannot expect to experience closeness with God if there is unaddressed sin putting space between us and Him.
- Do we expect to receive the blessings of God without being in relationship with Him? Faith in Christ, coupled with repentance, is required for salvation.