

## Acts Part 7 – Preaching After A Healing

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney Wednesday, October 14, 2015

### Acts 3:11-26<sup>1</sup>

We left off in our last study with the miraculous healing of a lame man by Peter working through the power of the Holy Spirit. We saw how his experience with Jesus led him to worship God and glorify him and all the people in the Temple witnessed it. Tonight, with the Lord's help, I want us to look at verses 11-26 and see that Peter again preaches Christ when given the opportunity.

11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

And so the lame man after running and leaping, praising, and worshiping God for the miraculous healing he had just received, desires to remain with Peter and John. That word "**held**" means "**to adhere to, or to join oneself to.**" In other words, these were his new best friends and he wanted to be with them. And that is the way ALL church folks should be. If you belong to the body of Christ you should desire to hang around the body of Christ. We should desire to have fellowship with one another, to congregate together with each other, and to participate in the activities of the Church and its members.

"**all the people ran together unto them**" – the excitement of this man's healing and worship has affected everyone. If you have ever struck a match and held it up beside a book of matches you will find that they all suddenly catch fire too. True worship and true excitement in the Lord is contagious. You may notice when one person outwardly rejoices in the Lord during our worship services then others join in. The Holy Spirit will cause you to do things that you normally wouldn't do. It wasn't normal for this congregation of worshipers to run through the Temple and onto the porch like this. These were extraordinary circumstances. Never before have they witnessed such power and worship.

"**in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.**" – This porch that is called Solomon's was a large section that was covered over, and the outside of it was enclosed with a wall. It was on the east side of the Temple on the outside and it was very large. **The Jewish Historian, Josephus**, writes this about it; "*As to the porch, they built it before the temple; its length was twenty cubits, and it was so ordered that it might agree with the breadth of the house; and it had twelve cubits in latitude, and its height was raised as high as a hundred and twenty cubits.*"<sup>2</sup>

12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

It said in the last verse that the people were "greatly wondering." They were amazed and curious of how such a thing had come to be. No doubt these people had thoughts going on in their mind that perhaps Peter and John were some kind of gods or something. Peter takes notice of the reaction of the people, apparently they are looking at him and John with amazement, maybe the way folks do today of

some famous movie star or well-known public figure. Or maybe even the way they looked at Jesus when he fed the thousands and they wanted to make him King.

Peter says; "why are you looking at us like we did this by our own power or because of our own holiness?" He is in no way going to take credit for what the Holy Spirit has done. So he sets them straight real quick:

13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go. 14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; 15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Not only is Peter giving full credit to the Lord for this miracle but he is going to start preaching hot and heavy to these folks. I want you to pay very close attention at what he says to them and take notice that he makes no effort to spare their feelings. They need to know the truth and Peter is the Preacher to give it to them. So he goes into how these very Jews that were standing on the Temple porch are the ones that were responsible for the death of Jesus, their own promised Messiah.

Just as Peter told the blind man, "**in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk,**" Peter specifically uses the name, Jesus. I did a word search in the New Testament on the name Jesus and I found that it is used 983 times in our King James Bible. John = 256, Matthew = 172, Luke = 100, Mark = 97, Acts = 68, then Romans to Revelation makes up the rest. Sixty Eight times the name Jesus is used in the Book of Acts. Peter wants to make sure everyone knows WHO is responsible and it wasn't him and John. Like John the Baptist said: "He must increase but I must decrease."

Notice he doesn't let them get by with blaming the Romans. He said that Pilate was determined to let him go but they wouldn't let him. He told them that they denied Jesus Christ, the Holy One, the Just, and preferred a murderer be released instead of the Son of God, the very Prince of life. Wow, you talk about punching them in the gut. And that is exactly what preachers are to do... preach!

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Notice that Peter is preaching faith in Jesus. It was faith in Jesus that caused this miracle to come about. It was faith in Jesus that his man who has been lame for 40 years can now walk, run, and leap about. And now he is going to preach it is by faith in Jesus that all men must be saved.

17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. 18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

Before you think that Peter is giving them an escape or a way out, think again. He is hammering hard on them. He says it was through their own ignorance that they and the rulers crucified Jesus. If they had been living close to God and examining the signs and the Scripture they would have realized Jesus was their Messiah but they were ignorant of that fact due to their lack of understanding. He says that God had shown them before through his prophets that Christ would suffer and that is exactly what happened.

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version

<sup>2</sup> Josephus – Antiquities of the Jews, Book 8, chapter 3, section 2.

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

And then he preaches the obligation of every lost sinner, and that is that they must repent and trust Jesus to be saved. Anyone who teaches or preaches that repentance is not part of salvation is not preaching the truth from the Bible. I've preached enough on repentance that I believe everyone here knows and understands that it is not a type of work but rather a turning from sin and unto the Savior in a one step process. If you are not repentant of your sins you cannot be saved no matter how many times you call upon the name of the Lord. If you are calling upon his name and not with a heart of repentance then you are wasting your breath.

That phrase; "**that your sins may be blotted out**," is borrowed from the Old Testament text. Numerous times in the OT Scripture you find instances of this term being used and it means that sins have been forgiven. Some verses are:

**Isaiah 43:25:** I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

**Psalms 51:1:** Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

**Psalms 51:9:** Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

The phrase; "**times of refreshing**," is most likely referring to the time when Christ, the Messiah will set up his earthly kingdom or the millennial Kingdom. This is what the Jews have been waiting on all of their lives. **Refreshing** means to be refreshed, to have rest, to be renewed; this is the promise given to them by God from all the way back when He first adopted them as His people. The Jews are always longing for rest because they have not had any. Even today the Jews are the most hated people on earth. Every day in the news you see where the countries and people around them want to destroy them. But one day they will finally get rest.

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

Since Jesus had already come the first time and the Jews rejected him, Peter is not meaning that God will send Jesus to them in bodily form right now if they repent, he is meaning through the Spirit he will send Jesus Christ their Messiah to them. In other words, they will be saved.

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

In other words, Jesus must remain in Heaven until the time he comes to setup his earthly Kingdom as their Messiah and he is not going to do that until the Jews recognize him as their King. Until they mourn over their sins and repent in their hearts and trust him as Lord and Master, he will remain in Heaven. We know that that day will come about as it was prophesied just like Peter said by "**his holy prophets since the world began**."

An example can be found in **Zechariah 12:10:** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall

mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Peter again stresses that all the way back in the times of Moses that the Messiah was prophesied and every single prophecy fit Jesus Christ. He truly was a prophet raised up from among them. **John 1:11:** He came unto his own, and his own received him not. If they had believed in Him and accepted Him the first time he came unto them they could have already experienced the Kingdom of God and the economy of the Messiah's reign. But they didn't, they rejected him. I like the way John MacArthur says it; "You can't have a Kingdom till you have a King, you reject the King, you forfeit the Kingdom."<sup>3</sup>

23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. 24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

To reject him the second time would be catastrophic. They will be destroyed along with all other unbelievers. Some people say, "but I thought all Jews would be saved in the end." Oh no my friend, just being a Jew does not save you. All Jews are saved the same way the Gentiles are saved, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. All BELIEVING Jews will be saved, as well as all BELIEVING Gentiles.

Peter stresses the point that all of the prophets have foretold this so it should not come as a surprise to them.

25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. 26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Then Peter ends his sermon with the promise of God that he spoke unto the prophets; God will bless them when they repent (turn from their unbelief and sin) and trust Jesus as their Savior (their Messiah). Then no more punishment, their sins are blotted out, gone forever, and He can establish His Messianic Kingdom that they have been longing for throughout history.

Well, I hate to end it here but for time's sake we are going to stop until next time. We are going to see in the next chapter that not everyone was happy with Peter's preaching. He upsets the religious order and the religious leaders so much that they put Peter and John under arrest.

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<sup>3</sup> John MacArthur – The Necessity of Repentance