



**What does Peter have to offer in the temple courts?** Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Acts 3 prepares us for the morning sermon on the coming Lord's Day. In these twenty-six verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that our greatest crippling (sinfulness) can be cured by the strength and soundness that is in Jesus's Name not only to give us repentance, conversion, and forgiveness, but that turning from our iniquities which is necessary for living according to all that Christ has commanded.

### Saturday, March 5, 2022 ▫ Read Acts 3

Questions from the Scripture text: Who go where, when (v1)? Who was carried where to do what (v2)? Whom did he ask (v3)? What does Peter command him to do (v4)? What does the man do, why (v5)? What doesn't Peter have (v6)? What name does he have? What does he do with it? What does Peter do (v7)? And what happens to the man? What does the man now do (v8)? Who saw this (v9)? What did they know (v10)? With what were they filled? What does the lame man do in v11? What do all the people do? With what two questions does Peter respond in v12? Who has done what to Jesus (v13a)? Who else had done what to Jesus (v13b–15)? But what has now made the lame man strong (v16)? What contributed to their wickedness (v17)? But Who has fulfilled what (v18)? What does Peter tell them to do (v19)? So that what may be done to their sins? And what may come? And then the Lord would send Whom (v20)? Until when does heaven receive Him (v21)? Who has spoken of this? How? Since when? Whom had Moses said the Lord God would raise up (v22)? From whom? What were they to do? But what if they did not (v23)? Who else spoke about when (v24)? Of whom are they sons (v25)? Of what are they sons? What did this covenant say? What was its sign? What has God done (v26, cf. v15)? And to whom did God send Him first? To do what to them? How?

For the next chapter and a half (and not unlike all of human history) **everything rests upon the Name of Jesus.** In v6, Peter commands the lame man, "In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And in v16 he preaches to the crowd, "And His Name, through faith in His Name, has made this man strong." The council recognizes this in chapter four threatening them to speak to no one in the Name of Jesus (4:17–18).

**God's redemptive plan was to use even the greatest wickedness to do the greatest good.**

Healing a lame man is a very good thing. "Alms" (v2) is literally "mercy-deeds," and some translations will say "charitable deeds" or even "mercy" or "pity." If that is a good deed, then healing him is an extremely good deed.

The people recognize that the cause of the newfound soundness of the man's legs must be great power and/or godliness (v12). But it was faith that comes on account of Jesus (v16) that had actually given the man "perfect soundness."

God had promised this to the fathers (v13, 18, 22–25), in order to glorify Jesus. And God had fulfilled it (v18), even though it came through their delivering Jesus up, and denying Jesus, and preferring a murderer, and killing the Captain of life. They did wickedness, through which God has done good to the lame man.

And now through that very wickedness, by which God had done this good, He offers them the greatest good: that they may repent and be converted (v19a, 25), that they may have their sins blotted out (v19b), that times of refreshing may come from the Lord's presence (v19c). The family that killed Jesus is the first family that is offered blessing in Jesus (v25–26)!

This is what God had been saying through *all His holy prophets since the world began* (v21b). And His Word still aims forward to *the restoration of all things* at which point "He Whom heaven has received" will return (v20–21a). From end to end, history is about the fulfillment of what God has purposed in Christ and promised in Christ.

**Our response must be to do whatever Jesus says.** Of course, the first thing to do is to call upon His Name and be saved (cf. 2:21)—to repent and put all our hope in the promise which He signals to us in baptism upon His Name (cf. 2:38–39). But the prophecy to which vv22–23 refers tells us to hear Him *in all things, whatever He says to you*. It is self-refuting to claim to have faith in Christ without submission to all His Word (cf. Deut 18:15–19).

What good are you looking for in your life? What ultimate good must you have for this to be any good at all to you? What must you do to come into this ultimate good? What does the life look like of someone who has come into this ultimate good?

*Sample prayer:* Lord, we praise You for sending Christ to us to bless us and all the families of the earth. Grant that we would be turned from our iniquities and do whatever He says, we ask in His Name, AMEN!

**Suggested songs:** ARP34B "I Will At All Times Bless the Lord" or TPH397 "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

Acts chapter 3. These are God's words. Now, Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer. The ninth hour and a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried and they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called beautiful to ask alms from those who entered the temple.

Who's seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple. Asked for alms and fixing his eyes on him. With John Peter said, look at us so he gave them his attention expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, silver and gold. I did not have what I do have.

I give you and the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Rise up and walk. He took him by the right hand and lifted him up and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he leaping up stood and walked and entered the temple with them walking and leaping and praising God.

And all the people saw him walking and praising God, and they knew that it was. He who sat begging all set the beautiful gate of Temple and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. Now, as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch, which is called Solomon's greatly amazed.

So when Peter thought he responded to the people Men of Israel, Why do you marvel at this or why? Look, so intently at us as though by our own power or godliness. We had made this man walk the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The god of our Father's glorified, his servant, Jesus whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate when he was determined to let him go.

But you denied the Holy One. And the just and asked for a murderer to be granted to you and killed the Prince of life. And God raised from the dead of which we are witnesses. And his name through faith, in his name, has made this man, strong whom you see, and know.

Yes, the faith. Which comes through him has given him this. Perfect. Soundness in the presence of you all yet. Now brethren I know that you did it in ignorance as did also your rulers, put those things which God foretold of other mouth of all his prophets that the Christ would suffer.

He has lost fulfilled. Repent. Therefore, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out. So that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord and that he may send Jesus Christ to His preached. To you before him. Heaven must receive until the times of restoration, of all things.

Let's god has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began For Moses, truly said to the fathers, The Lord, your God will raise up for you. A prophet like me from your brethren him. You shall hear in all things. Whatever he says to you and it shall be that every soul.

Who will not hear that? Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people. Yes, and all the prophets from Samuel and those who follow as many as have spoken. Also foretold these days you are sons of the prophets and of the covenant, which God made with our fathers saying to Abraham and in your seed, all the families of the earth shall be blessed to you first.

God having grazed up his servant. Jesus sent him to bless you and turning away. Every one of you from your iniquities,

Amen. Thus, far the reading of God's inspired and in Aaron tort

Now, but we heard at the end of Acts chapter 2, not only were they having the assembly on the Lord's Day, the apostolic preaching and apostolic breaking of bread and apostolic prayers of which word, sacrament, and prayer, and the fellowship. In those things of which the public worship of the church from the beginning consistent and that we see referred to and especially first Corinthians 11 through 14.

And and so forth but that they were also continuing in the temple daily. Now, the ninth hour was 3:00 PM. It was the time at which the Jews were still participating in the evening sacrifice. And those who are particularly devout would go and they would offer prayer during the time of the sacrifice thinking that if they prayed while the atonement for their sins was being offered in the evening sacrifice, it would help their prayers.

But something analogous to when when the disciples couldn't cast the demon out of the child, and, and Jesus gives the explanation afterward. This kind only comes out by prayer and fasting, and they said, why couldn't we cast it out? And then you make a mental note, Wait a minute.

What did Jesus not have to do when he cast out the demon? He didn't pray or he didn't fast. Why? Because

he's the one you pray unto and he's the one you fast unto Well. Something similar here. There are people who are inside offering their prayer at the time of of the sacrifice thinking that that gives it gives the prayer more effectiveness.

But Peter and John the dog under the table. Yeah. Okay, but Peter and John are outside actually fairly literally answering a man's years at first. Now, the guy is used to everyone ignoring him because that's what those who beg our accustomed to is. The vast majority of people ignoring you if that wasn't the case, if the vast majority people were giving to you, you'd have short visits to the temple mates because you wouldn't need.

You wouldn't need to be there that long. So when when Peter and John fix Peter especially with John, fix their eyes on him in verse 4, that's already unusual. And then they say, look at us, he is expecting some some oldies, get expecting. Mercy, deeds. A gift of some kind and Peter says, silver and gold.

I do not have and probably the lame man who has had so many hundreds and thousands of these disappointing interactions. And probably from people who didn't obey didn't obey or follow. What we heard. The beginning of Psalm 41, gave him lectures about how sinful he was for his affliction and what he really needs is forgiveness.

And you know, who knows? All the interactions that you might have had his heart probably sank at the opening line in silver, and golden do not have. But then you know what? I have I give you. And in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Rise up and walk just marvelous.

Now, you're grateful that we don't have to offer, you know, the church doesn't have to offer sacrifices morning and evening, although it does give us good grounds in which to call a service that starts at 3:00 PM, the evening service, So there's that. But the point is that Jesus was what those sacrifices looked forward to.

And it wasn't on the basis of the animals that were being slaughtered and burned. As substitutes inside the temple that prayers could be answered. But on the basis of the resurrected one who had been sacrificed. Once for all sitting on the throne of glory which has been made for us the throne of grace, it's upon his name that prayers can be offered, which means that yes, it's good for us to have stated time of prayer in the context.

It seems like the the church had co-opted that particular hour at which people were accustomed to going to the temple anyway to have their daily temple time gathered, congregational Temple, time in the temple, but since our sacrifice has been offered once for all we can come to him anytime in the time of need.

And so there's a, there's something wonderful there but that becomes the theme of the chapter that in the name of the one who suffered. Once for all and has risen and ascended and sits continually on the throne for us, our prayers may be answered and those who are crippled may and will be healed.

Now, that's true in an ultimate sense for those whose legs don't work, if they belong to God by faith. In Jesus Christ. If they repent and are converted verse 19. Their sins are forgiven. They will have glorified bodies and the full use thereof in the resurrection. But Peter and John meet very many more cripples than just.

This one, they meet those whose legs aren't crippled. But who's souls are crippled? Who are so lame and useless and contradictory to their original created, design in their heart and soul and mind that they verse 14 denied, the Holy One, and the just, and ask for a murderer to be granted to them.

What Peter and John offered. The lame a man with respect to his legs. They offer to this crowd with. Respect to their souls with respect to their guilt with respect to their ongoing sinfulness. And they announced that this was what God had prophesied about his Christ. First of all, God had prophesied about his Christ that he would suffer verse 17.

Those things which God foretold by the mouth of all his prophets that the Christ would suffer. He has thus, he has thus fulfilled. And and so that was what the Christ would what would happen to the Christ. And then he reminds them that this happened so that all the families of the earth could be blessed in him.

You are sons of the prophets verse 25 and of the covenant, which God made with our fathers, same to Abraham and in your seed, all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Not just the Israelite family but the Egyptian family and, you know, whatever half a dozen families, mom comes from that.

You guys are also from here. We are we are one of these families that is blessed, But you find out the content, especially of the blessing in verse 26, to you first God, having raised up his servant, Jesus sent him to bless you. And so he's engaged that have expected that the the blessing that the families of all the earth would receive would start in the family of Abraham.

What is that? Blessing, verse 26, and turning away. Every one of you from your iniquities, that they

would start out as the ones, who denied the, Holy One, and the just and asked for a murderer, etc. And who delivered up Jesus and denied him in the presence of Pilate verse 13.

You take them from being those and he would turn them away from their inequities. Could someone close that door please? And Jesus. In his name, the lame man could be healed and could walk and leap. And praise God. That was a small miracle on that day, the great miracle, was that, of which the fixing of that, let man's legs was an indicator that in Jesus.

And by his name, by faith in his name, we could be forgiven of our sins by Jesus, and by faith. In his name, we could be. We could repent, and to be changed by Jesus, by faith. In his name, we could be turned from our iniquities and become those who follow the prophecy of verses.

22 through 24. Moses had said the Lord, your God will raise up for you. A prophet like me from your brethren him. You shall hear in all things. Whatever he says to you and it shall be that every soul. Who will not hear that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people, Only those whom God has made.

Holy may enter into his rest may enter heaven. And that's a problem because we are way more crippled for holiness than the man at the beginning of this passage is crippled for walking. But Jesus through faith. In his name, not only gives us forgiveness of sins. Not only gives us repentance.

Not only gives us a change in who we are. It's called conversion here, but he also gives us the turning from our iniquities and more, and more the doing according to all that Jesus says. Until in the day of Christ Jesus he who has begun the work. We'll have completed the work.

And we who begun completely crippled for any holiness by all of those mercies from that come forth from Christ, and from His work, we will have been made those who walk according to the law of spirit and life. And we will be holy and all of this comes not by lambs that were being slaughtered and burned inside.

But by the name that was spoken outside in the court and the temple court him who set he who sat on the throne and who had been offered once for all and risen again. That was very important for you today. I've already done plenty of sending today. That would think that's lower than the grave.

If it wasn't for the name of Jesus and we need forgiveness and we need to live not as we were, when we came into the world that for you, my dear family all except for your mother, It is very specifically my federal representation of you. You're being my children.

That is the reason you needed to be changed. Because through me you are the children of the first Adam and we send in him and we fell in him and not through me. But through someone else, mom is a child of the first Adam. And we need it. Repentance and conversion and forgiveness And we needed all the more.

Because without these, How are we going to walk? According to the commands of Christ all day which they had known since Moses. Since he said, the Lord will raise up a prophet from like me from among your brethren, and you have to do whatever he says, Well, we have a day now, in which, we have to live, according to whatever.

Jesus says, how are we going to do that? If we started out as such cripples, well, it's because through Jesus. And through His name, We may have soundness not for our legs so much. Yeah, Mr. Phil Miss Sue or not, gonna jump up and run around and leap. And praise God.

But they and we by the grace of life of Jesus Christ are going to live. According to what Jesus says and more and more until he has made us perfectly. Holy. So that we may enter His rest in the last day. Hey man. Let's pray how we thank you.

Our God for this wonderful passage. That we get to hear preached on the Lord's day, very even now that you would be reminding us of the what we read in it and of, right? And good understanding of those things that we have read. So that our hearts would be well conditioned to offer ourselves to you through this passage in the hearing of it read and preached.

In the Lord's day, we bless you that these wonderful things that have been wonderful to hear and think about are real and true because this is who you are and what you have done and how we despite of who we are, may have forgiveness and repentance and change, and sanctification and glorification.

And so we pray that you would glorify your son who became your servant Jesus in the incarnation that you'd glorify him as already demer. As we are enabled to live through faith, in his name through which faith in His name. We also offer this prayer to you, Amen