



Acts

Study Pack 04

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Acts Chapter 3

Acts 3:1

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Keep in mind the Temple was all they had ever known when it came to worshipping Jehovah, when it came to the sacrifices that was the epicenter and that was the center of all worship and fellowship with the Lord.

And so this new dispensation of the church had not been fully revealed to them to realize that the Temple was _____ a part of God's new economy. What do we learn later on through the writings of Paul concerning the Temple? It says that 'ye are the temple', 'you' are the temple. When Christ died and said, "It is finished." and His sacrifice for sin was accomplished, what happened within the Temple at that moment? The veil of the Temple blocking the most Holy of Holies was _____ in _____—supernaturally. Nobody went in there and cut it.

Can you imagine the priests and those that were a part of the Temple at that point seeing that happen? Because no longer were sacrifices needed and no longer was that where there was going to be this close fellowship with God. You are now the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

But again, this is still developing and coming and it's taking time. The Jewish day was based on 12-hour days, if you will, that started at 6 a.m. Most likely this would have been around 3 p.m. that they would have been coming to the temple.

Acts 3:2

² And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

He had no way of earning income. He's lame from birth, and so every day they would carry this lame man and they would lay him there as people were coming in and they entered into the temple.

This is the area called the _____, where you would kind of come into that area. So where was this? We don't know exactly and it doesn't totally matter, but the fact is if you look at these models, you have to understand that within this beautiful Temple, as you work your way closer, there's certain _____ for certain _____.

Gentiles, for example, could never go into certain areas. For sure, only into the Holy of Holies could the High Priest go at certain times. So I want you to understand as people were coming and going to the temple, this is where this lame man would have been. This is where Peter and John, as they come into the Temple would have been.

Acts 3:3–5

³ Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. ⁴ And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. ⁵ And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

And you know what he's expecting. He's expecting a gift. His hand is out.

"I'm in need."

He truly was in need.

He's saying, "Oh, I've got someone. I've got someone that is merciful. I've got someone that's going to help me out."

And I only want to point this out for a second, but I think it's important for us to _____ the lost. I think it's really, really easy to go through this life, even in ministry, believe it or not. Even if you work in full-time ministry, it's easy to not _____ the hurting, to not see the lost, and to not see the people who need a Savior. So don't ever lose sight of that.

I don't know exactly what Peter and John were going to do in the Temple. Maybe it was just to pray. Maybe it was to preach. But they did not pass by this man. They _____ him.

And this is a picture of a lost person that we can use to apply in our lives. So my question to you today is: Do you _____ the _____? Do you see the people who need Christ? And what an illustration this is of all men who need a Savior. Because this man, being lame, had no way possible to help himself.

He was stuck. He was lost. He was incapable of helping himself. What a picture it is that needs a Savior.

Colossians 1:13

¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

That is what sin is. And all men need a _____. So he's begging. It's his only means of survival. And we are the same way. Without Christ, we cannot survive. Without Christ, we have no light. Without Christ, we have no life. Without Christ, we have no hope. It's the same as this man.

Acts 3:6

⁶ Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And at first, it almost seems like a cruel _____. He's putting his hand out. He's in need of money. He's in need of help. And Peter says, look on me. So he's like, "Hey, listen, I want your attention. I want you to pay attention to me."

He's expecting that gift. And Peter says, "The things that I know you want, I don't have. Silver and gold have I none. But such as I have, I give thee."

Well, I know what this guy's probably thinking. Well, whatever you have that isn't money, I'll still take it. But I would prefer money.

So maybe is he thinking, "Well, maybe I'll get food. Or maybe I will get some sort of valuable object that I can trade for money."

But Peter says, "I don't have the silver and gold. But what I do have, I'll give thee. And it is in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. And he says, rise up and walk."

Now, this is unbelievable. Two things just happened right before our eyes.

Number one, Peter says that he is offering something to him different than silver and gold. Secondly, and I think it's to be very clear for the record, again, remember I said Luke in Acts gives lots of details. He gets

lots of specifics and then lays them out there and says, “You can go ahead and try to debate them, but they will hold water.”

They will all be provable that this is the actual record. It's almost as if Peter purposely declares that he wants to offer something other than what he really wants.

Why? Because if it was just for money or if it's just for this or that— and then what was this guy putting his trust in? The idea that “Well, I will trust you that I'm going to be able to walk because you said you're going to give me money.”

He actually made it clear on the front end, “I don't have silver or gold to give you, but I have something.” And what does he declare is the source of that? Jesus of _____.

That's really important. Why? Because this man would have _____ who that was.

If he was at the Temple every day begging, you don't think he would have heard about Jesus? You don't think he would have heard about these things? You don't think he would have even maybe heard that the veil was rent in two? But I promise you he heard and knew of Jesus.

So, ‘in the name of Jesus’ is more than just a _____. It's not just a “Hey, by the way, this is who I'm doing this miracle in.”

This man would have known him. And so what Peter is saying is that the healing power that he is offering to this person, it comes through or is connected to the _____ of _____. The name of Jesus is the One Who was resurrected.

This man's belief was _____ on this truth. This man did not believe in them because they offered him some money or some other thing. They said, “I'm going to offer you a healing based on the name of Jesus.”

Acts 3:7

⁷ And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And by the way, who's writing this? _____. What is he? He's a _____. So you're going to see specifics about his ankle bones receive strength. He's doing it like a doctor would.

Acts 3:8

⁸ And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Now remember, this man exercises his faith by believing in the power of Jesus. When Peter reached out his hand, he could have easily said, “No thank you. You, Peter, have no way you're going to heal me and fix my lame legs. There's no way it's going to happen.”

But what Peter said was, “I'm reaching out my hand through the power of the name of Jesus.”

Will you believe? And he reached out his hand. There are many, many people today, there are lost sinners today who are in the same position as this lame man. And the gospel is reached out to them.

It is offered to them. And what is their determination when they reject it? “That can't be the answer. That can't heal me. That can't take away my sin. I must need to do something or I don't believe in that God.” Fill in the blank.

There's a hundred thousand reasons why people reject Christ. But it is offered just like Peter put that hand out. On what basis is the gospel offered? On the basis of Paul Julian, on the basis of Pastor Scudder when he gives it on Sundays? No, sir. No, sir.

It is the basis of Jesus, the _____ that we offer to people and say, “Will you accept this?”

He trusted in the name of Jesus. And what happened? Immediate, miraculous healing. What happens the moment you trust Christ as your Savior? Instantly, you're saved. You're born again. You're a child of God. You're on your way to heaven. Your sins have been paid for.

So, he reaches out to this man with an empty hand. Nothing in it, except for what? The _____ that the power working through that hand of Peter was the _____ of the resurrected Christ. So, imagine they enter into the Temple.

He's now with them entering into the Temple. And listen, if I couldn't walk my whole life, and now I could walk, I'd be leaping too. I'd be jumping around like crazy. He never learned how to walk. He couldn't. His ankle, his legs, you know how atrophy sets in in no time— in weeks. This is years. He's leaping. That's what healing brings. That's the power of God.

But just think about this. The first time he walks, the first time he takes steps in his life, he's walking into the Temple with Peter and John. And he's now realizing the power of the resurrected Christ.

The _____ of the apostles were always _____ of God by the power of their miracles. We talked about sign gifts before. Tongues was one of those.

These were signs to help establish a church. They didn't have the written word of God in the New Testament yet. And so, how was it declared that an apostle's words _____ of _____? God would back them up with miracles and signs and wonders and healings and things like this.

Regarding this particular miracle, one of the authors that I studied actually said that there's a specific prophetic significance to this. And I can't say this for sure, but it is interesting. And he alludes to Isaiah 35:6.

Isaiah 35:6

⁶ Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, And the tongue of the dumb sing: For in the wilderness shall waters break out, And streams in the desert.

And it's talking about this: the coming kingdom and the prophecies that go by that go with that. And it's possible. I don't know if there would have been to the Jewish people there who knew these verses in Isaiah. I don't know if they would have seen that as a prophetic sign or a coming to pass.

But I will say this. It's important to understand that as you go through the book of Acts, you're going to see Peter, Paul, and all the apostles did this: they referred to the _____.

They start their preaching. They would be answering questions amongst the Jewish people. They always would go back to the Old Testament. You have to be careful and diligent sometimes where these prophecies or these things that you see happening in Acts, are they all specific answers or fulfillments of prophecy from the Old Testament?

The ones that the apostles say they are, _____ . But other areas where it doesn't say that they are, we have to be careful where we say, "Well, this one word or this one thing means this prophecy from the Old Testament."

Some are debatable. Some are like, "No, no way." Some are like, "Yeah, maybe." Some it doesn't matter.

My point is you have to be careful. And I would say to any of you that are going to be pastors or you're going to be teaching, it's important that when you're teaching the New Testament that you don't single out, that you don't jump off on one thing that's said in the New Testament without realizing that it's _____ to _____ in the Old Testament and you can get easily sidetracked.

A lot of times there's an Old Testament truth that's being given that's made to _____ the _____ of the New Testament verse. It's not meant to be jumped off of and become some now New Testament doctrine.

Out of all the commentaries I read, which is a lot of them in studying for this, only one said that this man leaping may be referring to Isaiah 35. I can't speak to whether it is or not, but it's something I think that's good to be aware of. So let's go on.

Acts 3:9–10

⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God: ¹⁰ And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

They knew this guy. There's no _____ faith healing ceremony going on here. And if others knew him, most likely Peter and John maybe had even seen him there as well. But he was well known. He'd been there his whole life.

Acts 3:11

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.

There's the Solomon's porch. If you look at our temple here, you can kind of see where it says the colonnade of Solomon. It's just kind of a porch under there, sort of a _____ area. This is where they're at. This is where this whole scene is happening.

But notice it says that they were greatly wondering. I think there's more to this than just, "Wow, this amazing healing just happened. Because remember, all of what had just happened, we had the crucifixion, we had the resurrection.

And so is it possible, and I think it is, that many of the people in that moment, in that scene, were thinking, "Is this the coming of the kingdom? Is this happening? Is this actually going to happen?"

And certainly we know that the apostles were asking Christ, "Is it coming? Is it now?"

And he said, “Not now, but that's up to me.” And remember, what is the focus of this new church? What's the main focus? It's the _____ people. They're in the Jewish temple that they're doing all this.

So Peter addresses this very issue and he makes a direct plea to Israel as a nation to see the significance of this miracle in light of what all just happened with Jesus of Nazareth.

Remember in our last lecture we were talking about: When was it too late? At what point was it too late for Israel as a nation? We know many got saved, 3,000 in our last chapter.

But as a nation to come to Christ, when was it too late? And we know at this point, I believe personally at this point, Peter is still pleading with them as a nation to come to Christ, to usher in the kingdom.

Acts 3:12–13

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? 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.

Again, this is the emphasis right now. This is right after Pentecost. He's saying to Israel, “Why marvel ye at this?”

You see, they're pondering all this. They're wondering all this. “How is this happening?”

And he's saying, “Men of Israel, why are you wondering this? This isn't the power of us.”

And so what is he going to do? He's going to, just like you're going to see all through the book of Acts, every sermon, whether it's Stephen, whether it's Paul, whether it's Peter, what do they do? They go back to the _____ with these people of Israel to say, “This is what you should be looking at.”

What are some of the Old Testament truths that he brought up? Well, look at Zechariah 12:10.

Zechariah 12:10

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.

They knew of this prophecy.

They knew a day is coming, which would be the second coming of Jesus. But they knew that it spoke of this moment of mourning, this realization that, “Oh my goodness, we missed something.” And so what followed that moment was what? It's this wake-up moment. It's this prophecy of ushering in the kingdom, and they're thinking, “Is this happening?”

So we know that even at that moment, had the nation of Israel turned to accept Jesus, the kingdom would have been ushered in. That's what God promised. You say, “Well, it didn't, and they didn't turn to Him as a nation.”

It's not something that we can spend a lot of time worrying about, but the fact is that God did not _____ their _____ to choose to do that. Let

me give you a couple of other Old Testament things that they would have known. We don't see that Peter said all these, but these are things they would have known.

Ezekiel 36:27

²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

It's speaking of the rejoicing in the kingdom.

Isaiah 12:2

² Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: For the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; He also is become my salvation.

These are things that pertain to the kingdom.

They're under Roman rule right now. They're under horrible oppression. These are truths that they would have known.

Look the direction Peter goes.

Acts 3:13

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.

Jesus was crucified not that _____; rose from the dead. They're declaring this man is healed through the power of that Jesus. He's now tying these two things together.

If you want to get in big trouble in the Jewish religious system— What were they getting the most upset at Jesus about? _____ to be _____. Very important to understand that.

Why? Because it's exactly what Peter is doing right here. He is taking the Old Testament truths, the Old Testament prophecies, and he's saying that is who _____ was and is. Keep reading, _____ was going to let him go. Pilate said, "I don't find any fault in him." And you, Israel, you as a nation, Israel, "No, we're not going to do that."

Acts 3:14–15

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.

You notice that every time they give the gospel, they talk about the _____. Every time they talk about the power of Christ in the gospel and the saved sinners, they talk about the _____.

Acts 3:16

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.

Now they are making a claim that the healing that they just witnessed, which by the way is how they offered it to this lame man, was through the very Jesus that was crucified by _____

_____. And he's saying that same name, that same person, Jesus, is how this person was healed and is strong.

Peter connects the significance of this man's _____ this critical moment of _____. This critical moment of decision as a people, as a nation, and individually in this place, will you accept the Messiah as your Savior? You see what he's doing? He's bringing it to a head.

It's bringing it to this decision to say, "This is your choice, what are you going to choose?"

Verse 17. This is important because believe me, there are people who are anti-Semitic. They hate the Jewish people, and they've tried to use some of these verses to say, "Well, see, they killed Jesus, it was their fault."

That was a big thing in the Holocaust era.

And Peter himself is a Jew that _____. Remember three times, Peter himself.

Acts 3:17

¹⁷ And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

He understood that they were doing this out of _____.

Luke 23:34

³⁴ Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

_____ put Jesus on that cross. The Roman soldiers, the Jewish rulers of that day, yes. Were they physically there and a part of the crucifixion? Of course they were, but who is to blame? _____ are to blame.

By the way, God the Father is the One Who said, "This is how I will redeem mankind back to me."

So it's very important, these are important passages to keep those things in perspective.

Acts 3:18

¹⁸ But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

God said through the prophets: His Son is going to _____. He said through the prophets: Christ is going to _____. And Peter is saying to them, "It has been fulfilled. It's happened."

Acts 3:19

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;

Peter's using the words of _____, and if you look up Isaiah 43, verse 25.

Isaiah 43:25

²⁵ I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, And will not remember thy sins.

This is the power of the gospel, this is the power of the salvation that is offered.

Acts 3:20–21

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

Now this is, again, Peter's kind of putting it back in real time. Jesus was crucified for sin, He rose again. God, since the beginning, has been prophesying that His Messiah, His Son would come and be the Messiah.

But why is Peter saying that heaven must receive Him? Remember I talked about those peaks of the mountains that the prophets of the Old Testament saw. They saw the coming of the Messiah; they saw the next peak of the kingdom. They couldn't _____ in that valley in-between and what that church age was.

And so what Peter is saying is that this must happen: He must _____ so that these _____ things can happen.

And we can't pass over that because there's another key thing that has to happen with Jesus Christ: He needs to be established in His proper place. What is His proper place? The _____ of God the Father.

Paul talks about this in more detail. It kind of gives us a little bit more of an understanding of it.

Ephesians 1:19–23

¹⁹ And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, ²⁰ Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: ²² And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, ²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

This is Jesus Christ, the head of the church. You say, “Well yeah, but He left earth. He's not there; He went to heaven.”

Yes, He did, but for a _____. Rightfully at the right hand of God the Father and in His action and His doing and His purpose and His will and what is the business that He is about? He is the _____ over all things to the _____. He is orchestrating this church, this universal church through individual believers.

How? Through the Holy Spirit. He's working on our behalf. He is our Advocate.

He's a Director of all that involves the glorious church known as the Bride of Christ. That is what he is about.

Acts 3:22

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.

This is an important thing because this term, a _____, he's talking about Christ.

John 1:21

²¹ *And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.*

They're speaking about those Old Testament scriptures that Peter's referring to here to say "Who was the prophet that can take away the sins of the world?"

When someone asked that of John, John said, "No, no, no, I'm not even worthy to lace up his sandals. There's a mightier one than me coming. That's the prophet."

Acts 3:23

²³ *And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.*

Peter's still speaking, that every soul which will not hear that prophet, Jesus, shall be destroyed among the people. Now remember, Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD, not that many years later.

Jerusalem is wiped out by Titus. So these are powerful words that Peter is speaking. And, of course, we also know that destruction, eternal destruction, is the worst in _____ this _____.

Acts 3:24

²⁴ *Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.*

You see what he's trying to do? He is pleading with them. This is what the prophets have been saying. This is what they've been saying. This is what they've been telling us. We've known these _____, and brethren, these are his brethren. He's saying, "It's happened. It's come."

Acts 3:25–26

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.*

And by the way, _____ is the way we get _____. We don't get _____ to get _____.

So what you're seeing here: You're seeing this first phase of this transition period. You see the transition? Peter's saying that these Old Testament prophecies have come true.

We're entering into a new age. And we also see that what the entire gospel is all about, all of what God's work on earth is all about. At this just this little sliver of time, who is it to? It's to the _____ people. And we know that this is a final attempt by Peter. It's offering to Israel as a nation a chance to accept the Messiah, a chance to usher in the kingdom.

And of course we know that they rejected that. Not individuals. A lot of individuals came to Christ, but as a _____ they _____ Christ. So this moment of significance of a man being healed is tremendous. And only God knows what His program would have been for planet earth had they accepted that.

But the fact is He also knew that they would not, but it did not change their free will.

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