

## **Acts 3:1-26: Evangelism: Word and Deed Part 2**

**Intro:** last week we saw that the Gospel and hospitality go together. Today we will see that again, there is a connection to the gospel, namely the healing of a lame man. 2 parts **of the Text: 2 Parts 1-10 & 11-26**. This the answer to **Question 1** in your bulletin.

The later part of chapter 3 is Peter's second so called "sermon" where he explains something miraculous with the person and work of Jesus and preaches the gospel. It is, in many ways a parallel to chapter 2.

So the first part is about the healing of a lame man (deed, v1-10) and the second part is about the Peter's message (word, v11-26). The order is reversed from what I have it in the title.

### **I. Healing 1-10**

#### A. Textual Notes

1. 3pm normal time of prayer
2. Lame man parallel in Matt 9:1-8; Mark2; Luke 5:17-26; John 5:8-9
3. "beg alms" means to ask for money
4. Peter's response
  - a. look at us (v4)
  - b. man's expectation was that he would receive money (v5).
  - c. "name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene -walk!" (v6).
  - d. result of praise (v8-9)
    - i. the man (v8)
    - ii. the people (v9)
  - e. "wonder and amazement" (v10) cf. 2:43

#### **B. Incorrect application of healing: Power Evangelism, Charismatic Theology and Word of Faith Movement (Question # 2)**

-This theology says that if you just believe enough, you'll be healed. If you have pain or disease or are suffering, it's because of sin or unbelief.

- If this were true and people have the gift of healing, why are their people in hospitals? Why is it that these so called faith healers always fence the healing with money?
- Internally inconsistent “we got no money... be healed.” Why don’ they have any money if that’s a sign of God’s blessing and is normative for the Christian faith.
- There is a difference between God healing people today and people having the gift of healing, and tongues and prophecy. Can and does God heal people today? YES! Do people today have the gift of healing? NO! and anyone who claims that they do is at best crazy and worst demonically motivated.
- Let me say without qualification that this theology is a heresy from the pit of hell. It is a damnable offense to blaspheme the Holy Spirit and attribute what God is doing to the work of the devil. Those who teach such things are false teachers who stand condemned before the Holy God will forever pour out His righteous judgement on their eternal souls.
- Naming of names: Creflo Dollar, Joyce Myer, Benny Hinn, TD Jakes, Jesse Duplantis, Paula White, Kenneth Copeland, Joel Osteen, Hillsong United, & Stephen Furtick and others. I’m not saying that these people are not gifted communicators or that every single thing they say is wrong. But on the whole, they ascribe to a form of doctrine that is foreign to the Scriptures and is indeed the doctrine of demons.
- Such theology takes advantage of the poor, desperate, diseased, sick, hurting, vulnerable, naive. It makes everything that is the result of the fall a direct divine judgment on individuals and promotes a **synchronistic, Satanic, sorry soteriology that diametrically opposed to the glorious gospel of the true and living God.**
- Sure, they use the Bible. So did all the major heretics of history. Sure, many of these teachers are entertaining. Aryan was the most popular preacher of his day, and yet he taught the Bible INCORRECTLY.
- General principle: just because someone quotes Scripture or references a Bible verse doesn’t mean that they are correct.
- This is one of the major reasons why we need the historically informed faith of our fathers which has been recorded not only in Holy Scripture but also in the ancient creeds of the church including, the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, The Chalcedonian Definition (hypostatic union), the Three Forms of Unity and our own Westminster Standards.

### **C. Correct Application of Miracles: Purpose of Miracles (signs) to Point us to Heaven**

-Gospel that God will make things right, that He is making things right. (think about the order).

-God will heal every disease, and sickness and sadness. He will wipe away every tear. There will be no sorrow or pain. No death or destruction. No heartache or disappointment. **Healings are a foretaste of glory divine.** The lion will lay down with the lamb. Babies will play with snakes with no fear of harm. The lame will leap. The blind will see. The deaf will hear. There will be wholeness, completeness, and fulfillment. No regrets or sin or obtuseness. But instead, clarity and hope, and joy and gladness and beauty and energy.

Miracles not only validate the heavenly message, they show **us heaven on earth and are a foretaste of what is to come.**

### **II. Gospel 11-26**

1. God sent Jesus (13a)

2. You killed Him (13b-18)

a. emphasis on “you” 5x (13b, 14 [2x], implied in 15, 17).

b. name theology “Jesus” this will be referenced again in the very next chapter, so I’ll save it for then but you can make a note if you like cross referencing 2:6 and 4:17-18. BTW, there are over 60k cross references in the Bible.

3. Repent and return (v19-26, especially verses 19 and 26)

Because what you’ve been looking forward to is here... now!

a. Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy (v21)

-Moses

Example 1: Deuteronomy 18:15 (v22)

Example 2: Deuteronomy 18:19 (v23)

-Samuel and everyone else (v24)

b. Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant promise to Abraham in Gen 12:3, 22:18 and Hebrews 11:12 (v25-26) concluding with the highlighting of the purpose to make people turn.

#### **What is a gospel presentation: (Question #4)**

See also: Acts 2; 1Cor 15, the middle of the Nicene Creed, “he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.”

Contemporary Example: God is holy and we are sinners who deserve to die. Jesus, the God man, lived a perfect life and died on the cross to save sinners. He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven. He is coming again and calls you to repent and believe the gospel.

#### **Conclusion: (Question #5)**

The bifurcation and divorce of word and deed is an unbiblical erroneous concept. This division of the Biblical example has led to two extremes. One side is the social gospel that empties the message of Christ of it’s power to save and only focuses on the temporal. The other side neglects the physical component of the gospel and insulates itself from society into a kind of pharisaical sect. Christians built hospitals. We should build hospitals. Christians preach the gospel. We should preach the gospel in hospitals and households of hospitality. One of the most effective outreach we tools we have is this obscene grace in a world of uncaring, selfish people.

Sometimes, we are so scared of being lumped into the quote “social justice” dumpster fire that we over correct and neglect the true social impacts of Christianity. Rightly so, we do not want to be associated with the nonsensical, victim engine of the woke industrial complex.

Nevertheless, we should be careful not to throw the proverbial baby out with the bathwater. I’m not talking about governmental social engineering. I’m talking about Christian hospitality, care, love and generosity coupled with an insistence that Jesus is Lord. Heal the sick, care for the wounded, feed the hungry, command that everyone, everywhere repent and believe the gospel. Be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Do both.

Let’s bring some heaven on earth. That is how the west was built. Word and deed. Sword and trowel. Spiritual and physical salvation. Jesus is Lord.

We just answered question 5 on your outline. Questions 6 & 7 are for reflection and discussion with your family this afternoon or this evening.

Oh Father, that you would, in the powerful name of your Son Jesus, and by the working of the Spirit, bring about this reality here in this city. Would you, for your glory, use us, your people to do your bidding and be salt and light, fulfilling this wholistic gospel of word and deed. We open ourselves to the Spirit's guidance as we seek to parse out the specifics of how this applies to us as individuals and families. Let it be so, for your sake, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Application Questions:**

- 1. What are the two parts of Chapter 3 and what do they refer to?  
(hint: look at the title of the message)**
  
- 2. What is an incorrect application of healing for today?**
  
- 3. What is a correct application?**
  
- 4. What are the major components of a gospel presentation?**
  
- 5. In the context of this passage, what two things should go together?**
  
- 6. What is the Spirit calling you and your family to do as a result of this?**
  
- 7. How will you change or modify your current lifestyle to make this happen?**