

A SURVEY OF THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

4. THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

Acts 3:1 -4:37

Adult Sunday School
Gethsemane Baptist Church
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THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

Acts 3:1 – 4:37

Acts chapter three begins with John and Peter going to the Temple for worship. “The early Christians continued synagogue attendance and Temple worship and saw no inconsistency.” (Kent. p. 37) At the entrance of the Temple they met a lame beggar who was asking alms of them, *“whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple”* (vs.2) Peter’s response to the man was, *“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.”* (vs. 6) Whereupon the man was healed, *“And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.”* (vs. 8) This healing was a very public miracle. The man was over 40 years old (4:22) and had been lying in the gate for many years. He was well known to the people who came to the Temple. *“They were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.”* (vs.10) It is significant that the miracle was done *“In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth”* (vs.6) This act caused the believers to come to the attention of the Temple officials. It also gave Peter the opportunity to preach to a large crowd of religious Jews. Before He returned to Heaven, Jesus had promised to give them

the power of the Holy Ghost to be able to preach His Word (1:8). That day Peter experienced the opportunity to preach in this power on Solomon's porch. The thrust of his sermon was that God was glorifying His Son, Jesus. This lame beggar was healed through the power of *"the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; where of we all are witnesses."* (vs. 15) Peter reminded the people that day that they had demanded the death of the Savior but had done so through ignorance. *"And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers. But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled."* (Vs. 17-18) Peter exhorted them to *"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."* (vs. 19) The conclusion of his sermon is an explanation of why God allowed this healing. Verse 26 says that God did it to turn them from their sins. He emphasizes the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus to emphasize the reality Jesus' divinity and Messiahship

Peter's sermon attracted the attention of the leadership of the Temple. The thing that upset these men was Peter's preaching *"taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead."* (4:2) They arrested Peter and John and held them over night. The authorities had a problem. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection of the

dead. The Pharisees allowed for the possibility but did not see Jesus as anything but a poor teacher. He was certainly not the Messiah. Yet, the truth of His resurrection was attested to by so many people. The fact of the healing of the lame man was evident to all who were there that day. They detained the Apostles overnight and questioned them the next day. The urgency for the officials was that many of the people saw the healing and believed on Jesus. (4:4)

Peter's testimony has several important points. That we should consider. For example, when asked by what authority Peter healed this man, he responded, being *"filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole."* (vs. 7b – 10)

Peter points out that Jesus is the only way to heaven. *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* (vs. 12) They were teaching that Jesus was the only way to Heaven. The keeping of the Law could no longer save.

The officials could not refute the evidence of the man's healing so their conclusion was *"But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly*

threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.” (Vs. 17 – 18) Peter’s response is instructive for us today. We must obey God and tell what we know.

The result of this healing and the response from the Temple leaders caused the assembly of the Church to praise the Lord. (vs. 24) They were beginning to realize that opposition was going to come so they prayed *“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.”* (vs. 29) Having gained courage from this experience they drew more closely together as a congregation and all their temporal needs were met by the generosity of the faithful.

Ideas to consider:

1) How did God use the healing of the cripple man?

2) After this healing, why were the Temple leaders so eager to stop the preaching about Jesus?

3) How can we apply Acts 3:17-18 today in our modern lives?

Notes:
