

LESSON 3

THE GOSPEL IS PREACHED

THE HEALING OF A LAME MAN (3:1–11)

In Acts 2, Luke indicated that “many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles” (v. 43). Acts 3 gives an account of one of those miracles—apparently recorded because of the negative effect it had on the Jewish leaders. The persecution foretold by Jesus in John 15:20 began (see Mt. 10:16–25).

1. Why did the Christians meet daily in the Court of the Gentiles?
2. What was Peter and John’s primary purpose for going to the temple on the day they healed the lame man?
3. Where were the three principal places to beg in those days?
4. On the basis of whose “faith in [Jesus’] name” was the lame man healed?
5. What was the nature of the miracle that healed the lame man, beyond the mere healing of flesh and bones?
6. Why did Peter and John heal this specific beggar on this specific occasion?
7. Why does Luke refer to the place where Peter spoke as the “so-called portico of Solomon”?

AN UNFINISHED SERMON (3:12–26)

Names are extremely important to our personal identities. In the Bible, names not only identify, but they also represent all the characteristics of the individual. In Acts 3 and 4, the emphasis is on the name of Jesus Christ (3:6, 16; 4:7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 30). In chapters 3 and 4, we read about healing in His name, the preaching of His name, suffering for His name, and power through His name. These two chapters make it clear that the name of Jesus does not merely identify Him.

8. What three things are wrapped up in the name of Jesus?
9. How were Peter's sermons in Acts 2 and Acts 3 different?
10. What is the meaning of the word translated "servant" in 3:13?
11. What five contrasts did Peter make in 3:13–15?
12. Why was 3:16 written so awkwardly?
13. What does Peter's concession in 3:17 mean about the guilt of the people to whom he spoke?
14. What parallels exist between Acts 2:38 and Acts 3:19?
15. From where did the word translated "wiped away" in 3:19 come?
16. To what do "times of refreshing" refer in 3:19?
17. What are the three blessings Peter mentioned in 3:19, 20?
18. When is "the period of restoration of all things" (3:21)?
19. To what does the phrase "sons of the prophets" refer in the Old Testament?
20. How did Peter understand God's promise to Abraham, which he quoted in Acts 3:25?