

The Healing of a Lame Man
Acts #5 | Acts 3:1-26
September 13, 2020

Pre-Sermon Remarks

1. Thankful for some rest, but I've missed our church
 - a. Visited 3 other churches
 - b. Visiting another church in Spokane in a few weeks
2. Thankful for the brothers who taught - more of that!
 - a. John - sorry is was 93 degrees
 - b. Steve - sorry I wasn't here to interact with you
 - c. Rabbi Matt - sorry your Yankees are in 3rd place behind the Rays & Orioles
 - d. Shane - sorry you've had to deal with me for almost 6 years now
3. Book of Acts - the next phase of God's rescue plan has begun!
 - a. Today is part 1 of 2, this miracle that leads to getting in trouble with the gov't

PRAYER

Introduction

- In the age of Covid, I feel terrible for those with seasonal allergies
 - Covid can infect people and they don't even know it
- In today's passage, a man is physically afflicted and he definitely knows it. But, God uses two disciples to not only heal him, but many others who didn't realize they were in need.

Big idea: Healed people heal people

I. THE STORY

Miraculous Healing

¹Now Peter and John were going up to the temple for the time of prayer at three in the afternoon.

- One of my favorite friendships in the Bible, worked through hardship

²A man who was lame from birth was being carried there. He was placed each day at the temple gate called Beautiful, so that he could beg from those entering the temple.

- Has never known what it was like to walk, he is very aware that he is unwell
- "Beautiful Gate" is hard to know with certainty, the only reference in the NT
 - **John Polhill** Josephus spoke of ten gates in the sanctuary. Nine, he said, were overlaid with silver and gold; but the tenth "was of Corinthian bronze and far exceeded in value those plated with silver and set in gold." So massive was this gate that when it was closed each evening, it "could scarcely be moved by twenty men."

³When he saw Peter and John about to enter the temple, he asked for money. ⁴Peter, along with John, looked straight at him and said, "Look at us." ⁵So he turned to them, expecting to get something from them. ⁶But Peter said, "I don't have silver or gold, but what I do have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!"

- In Acts 2, they've already had a radical change regarding money

⁷Then, taking him by the right hand he raised him up, and at once his feet and ankles became strong. ⁸So he jumped up and started to walk, and he entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹All the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and they recognized that he was the one who used to sit and beg at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. So they were filled with awe and astonishment at what had happened to him.

- “You want money? Here is something even better”

Peter's Sermon

¹¹While he was holding on to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astonished, ran toward them in what is called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹²When Peter saw this, he addressed the people:

- The coward is now preaching his second public sermon

“Fellow Israelites, why are you amazed at this? Why do you stare at us, as though we had made him walk by our own power or godliness?”

- “You like this healing? Let me redirect your attention to the real point!”

¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and denied before Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer released to you. ¹⁵You killed the source of life, whom God raised from the dead; we are witnesses of this.

- Jesus is God's “Holy and Righteous One” | Language of God in the prophet Isaiah
- Jesus is the source of life | “all things were created by him”
- Jesus was raised from the dead | Isaiah's suffering servant who shall live

¹⁶By faith in his name, his name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. So the faith that comes through Jesus has given him this perfect health in front of all of you.

- Credit is given to God, “his name”
- Faith is the conduit, God's power is the electricity

Call to Repent

- A very *Jewish* presentation of the gospel, steeped in Hebrew Bible (Nevi'im)

¹⁷“And now, brothers and sisters, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your leaders also did.

¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had predicted through all the prophets—that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out, ²⁰that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah. ²¹Heaven must receive him until the time of the restoration of all things, which God spoke about through his holy prophets from the beginning. ²²Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers. You must listen to everything he tells you. ²³And everyone who does not listen to that prophet will be completely cut off from the people.

- Pharisees in particular were a reform movement, saying “get back to the Torah”
- Scared about some “new prophet” who could lead astray
- Moses promised such a prophet, it was Jesus!

²⁴“In addition, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those after him, have also foretold these days. ²⁵You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with

your ancestors, saying to Abraham, 'And all the families of the earth will be blessed through your offspring.'²⁶ God raised up his servant and sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your evil ways."

II. PRINCIPLES

1. Everybody is unwell, only some people know it (*admit it*)
 - a. **Acts 3**² A man who was lame from birth was being carried there. He was placed each day at the temple gate called Beautiful, so that he could beg from those entering the temple.
 - b. *Conversation with my mom about low-hanging fruit in ministry*
2. Healings are signs, signs point to something better
 - a. **Acts 2**⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles.
 - b. *It would be very easy to get fixated on miracles and miss the fact that they're signs*
3. The most important healing is from the disease of sin
 - a. **Acts 3**²⁶ God raised up his servant and sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your evil ways.
 - b. *Peter does not preach on how to get healed, he preaches a gospel sermon*
 - i. Christ's nature, and Christ's redemptive work
 - ii. Repentance and faith
4. There is no division between the gospel message and acts of service
 - a. **Acts 3**⁶ But Peter said, "I don't have silver or gold, but what I do have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!"
 - b. *Some of you only focus on acts, others on gospel message (some of you do neither)*
5. Believers have refreshing now, and restoration later
 - a. **Acts 3**¹⁹ Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out,²⁰ that seasons of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Jesus, who has been appointed for you as the Messiah.²¹ Heaven must receive him until the time of the restoration of all things.
 - b. This guy eventually died, but one day will be raised to life everlasting

Application

1. Are you honest about how unhealthy you truly are?
2. Are you aware of how powerful Christ's healing is?
3. Are you living as a healer in this fractured world?
 - a. What if this was an opportunity to be the presence of the Kingdom on earth?

Benediction

Jesus taught us, "Blessed are the peacemakers." May God grant you the vision, strength, and courage to proclaim God's message of peace whether welcome or unwelcome, for the sake of the world that God loves.

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sermon Description

As Peter and John enter the temple courts, they encounter a man who knew that he was broken and in need of redemption. God uses these men to not only heal his physical body, but also to heal his sin-diseased soul. When we are truly honest about how unwell we are, we can truly experience Christ's healing, and we can share that healing with others.

Discussion Questions

1. This week, take time to be truly honest about the state of your spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical health. What outside circumstances are negatively affecting you? What internal struggles do you need to be honest about?
2. Why is it so common for Christians to divide over "just preach the gospel" vs "just go serve people who are in need"? Why must we reject that false dichotomy?
3. Use a concordance or a website like Bible Gateway to look up the usage of the word "signs" in Luke and Acts. What patterns do you see? Why is it important to think of healing and other miracles as signs?
4. If "healed people heal people," where do you need to experience the deep, healing love of Jesus so that you can be a person of healing in this broken, fractured world?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for yourself and others in our church family, as so many of us are deeply hurting due to the difficulties of this past year (among other things).
2. Pray that Christ's healing love would fill our hearts so that we could bring his healing love to the world.