

Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles in Jerusalem

Lesson 3 The Opposition Arises

".... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Introduction: Acts **Chapter 3 and 4** cover the second miracle in which a lame man is healed. We see this provides yet another opportunity for witnessing and more growth of the early church. Throughout history any time of growth has always spurred opposition from the world and so we see the same here as the religious structure of the day once again persecutes the early church. In this God's provision is sufficient and we see another picture of a healthy local New Testament church moving forward for the cause of Jesus Christ.

I. A Lame Man Healed

- a. **(V1) The Priority of Prayer**
 - i. 6:00am was the first hour, 3:00pm was the ninth hour
 - ii. Peter and John were dedicated to prayer
 - iii. Jewish Synagogue
- b. **(V2-V7) The Priority of a Soul**
 - i. **Alms** – Food, money, clothing etc...
 - ii. **(V2)**This man was commonly known
 - iii. **(V4)** Peter was interested in even one soul
 - 1. Evangelist in Korea example
 - iv. **(V4-V7)** This is an intentional stop directed by God's perfect will
 - v. This is the first miracle done outside of Pentecost
 - 1. Purposeful miracles
 - vi. A better gift than silver and gold
 - 1. **(V5b)** This man was looking for temporal
 - 2. **(V6)** This man found the eternal
 - 3. **2 Corinthians 4:3-7**
 - vii. **(V7)** His faith proceeded the miracle
 - 1. Salvation – **Eph 2:8-9**
 - 2. Walking on Water
 - 3. Noah's Ark
 - viii. **(V6)** Jesus Christ was the object of His Faith
- c. **(V8-V10) The Priority of Praise**
 - i. The lame man's immediate response was that of praise
 - 1. When is the last time we were leaping and praising God?
 - 2. What has God done for us?

- 3. How do we come into church?
- 4. How do we act outside of church?
- ii. His testimony was alive, visible and effective
 - 1. It's catching
 - 2. How often do we grieve or quench the Holy Spirit by our outward attitude, especially in Church?

II. A Living Testimony

- a. **(V11)** Another opportunity to witness
 - i. We see an immediate affection for the brethren
 - 1. **1 Jhn 2:9-10, Jhn 13:34-35**
 - ii. There was a great desiring and searching for something great, they were searching for salvation
 - 1. Today people are searching for salvation
- b. **(V12 – 18)** Giving glory to God
 - i. How often are we surprised when we see God do a mighty work?
 - ii. **(V12)** Immediately we see Peter giving God the credit
 - iii. **(V13)** This is the beginning of the second preaching session of Peter
 - iv. **(V13)** "The God of" indicates a present real authority
 - 1. **Matthew 22:32**
 - 2. He is the God of you and I today as well "The God of your name"
 - 3. Jesus is glorified
 - v. **(V14-15)** Three names given to Jesus
 - 1. The Holy One (His Perfection)
 - 2. The Just (His Righteousness)
 - 3. The Prince of Life (His Salvation toward us)

"Peter pointed out the waywardness of the sinners, in that they desired a murderer rather than good. They accepted the bad, instead of the Holy, the Just, the Prince of Life."

- vi. **(V16)** Peter made it clear that what was before them was a result of faith in Jesus Christ (Personal Testimony), it is important to note that this healed man was in a position to glorify God.
 - 1. We should glorify God alone for who we are
- vii. **(V17-18)** Ignorance is not an excuse
 - 1. God's plan will always be fulfilled
- c. **(V19)** The Gospel Message
 - i. Turn to God from your sin
 - ii. Be converted (from what?)
 - 1. Belief in Judaism principles (Work's salvation)
 - 2. **Gal 3:24**
 - iii. Results in sins blotted out
- d. **(V20-26)** The Coming Reign

- i. “times of refreshing”, “times of restitution of all things”
 - 1. Jesus Christ is the central figure
 - 2. God’s plan was one of redemption from the beginning

Chapter 4

III. A Loud Opposition

- a. Sudden Interruption
 - i. **(V1-6)** The Power of the Gospel
 - 1. The Gospel is very divisive
 - a. Those who believe
 - b. Those who do not
 - c. **2 Timothy 1:8**
 - 2. The Gospel saves
 - a. Conditions are irrelevant (5000 saved!!!)
 - b. **Romans 1:16**
 - ii. **(V7-8)** The Provision of The Spirit
 - 1. Notice the boldness of Peter (remember Peter denying Jesus Christ)
 - 2. Notice the source of His boldness
 - iii. **(V9-16)** The Proclamation of Jesus Christ
 - 1. **(V9-12)** The mini Gospel message
 - a. Jesus Christ – Crucifixion
 - b. Jesus Christ – Resurrection
 - c. Jesus Christ – Restoration
 - d. Jesus Christ – Salvation
 - 2. **(V15)** “*they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*”
 - 3. **(V14-16)** God had them in a pickle
 - iv. **(V16-23)** The Promised Outcome
 - 1. **Luke 12:4-12**
 - 2. **Matthew 28:18-20**

IV. A Lifting Prayer

- a. Fellowship in supplication
 - i. **(V24)** They Praised God
 - ii. **(V25-28)** They Quoted Scripture
 - 1. **Psalm 2**
 - iii. **(V29-30)** They asked according to His Will
 - 1. **1 Jhn 5:14, 1 Tim 2:4, Isa 42:1-12**
 - 2. They asked to proclaim His word
 - 3. They asked to speak with boldness

4. They asked to glorify God
- iv. **(V31)** They were given a sign
 1. Their prayers were answered
 2. We will see many times in Acts the “signs” given to the Jewish people

V. A Local Church

- a. **(V31)** They were believers (filled with the Holy Ghost)
 - i. **2 Cor 1:22, Eph 1:13**
- b. **(V31)** They were assembled together
 - i. “where they were assembled together”
- c. **(V30-31, 33)** They were Soul Winners
- d. **(V32)** They were unified
- e. **(V34)** They provided for one another
- f. **(33b, 34-35)** They were blessed of God
- g. **(V33)** They had great power within God's plan
- h. **(35, 37)** They were organized