

acts

OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson 3 • July 21
Acts 3-4 • “We Cannot But Speak
of What We Have Seen and Heard”

Just as Jesus promised, something special had started in Jerusalem. About three thousand souls had responded to the gospel in **Acts 2**. **Acts 3** begins with Peter and John going up to the temple.

And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you.



In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” (3:2-6)

Immediately, the lame man’s feet and ankles were made strong and he went toward the temple with Peter and John, walking and leaping and praising God. As people began to realize what had happened, a great crowd formed in Solomon’s portico. Peter took the opportunity to share this message (3:12-26):

- ❖ We didn’t heal this man with our own power or goodness
- ❖ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob glorified his servant Jesus
- ❖ Jesus was the Holy and Righteous One, the Author of life
- ❖ You denied Jesus and delivered him over to the Romans, asking for a murderer to be released instead
- ❖ But we are witnesses of the fact that God raised Jesus from the dead
- ❖ Faith in the name of Jesus has made this lame man strong
- ❖ God’s plan and prophets have been pointing to Jesus all along
- ❖ It’s time to repent!



Luke tells us that many of those who heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand (4:4). But many of the rulers, elders, scribes, and priests didn’t believe. **Acts 4** tells us about their threats, but Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard” (4:20). The apostles would continue to be witnesses of the faith.

For Class & Family Discussion:

- What do you think Peter meant when he told the lame man to rise up and walk “in the name of Jesus Christ” (3:6)?

- Peter uses several terms to describe Jesus in Acts 3; how does each help us understand Jesus’ identity and mission?
 - Servant (3:13, 26) -

 - The Holy and Righteous One (3:14) -

 - The Author of life (3:15) -

 - Prophet (3:22-23) -

- In his Acts 3 message, Peter links repentance with sins being “blotted out” (3:19), “times of refreshing” (3:20), and blessing (3:26). In your own words, what is repentance and how does it lead to the sorts of good gifts Peter is describing?

- Notice how the Jewish rulers thought of Peter and John in Acts 4:13, but then also notice the beginning of 4:8. What does Luke want to make sure we understand about the message and its source?

- A thousand years before these events, it was written in Psalm 118:22-23, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.” What powerful point is Peter making in Acts 4:11-12?

- What couldn’t the Jewish rulers deny in 4:16? So why wouldn’t they answer the call to repent?

- What can we learn from the prayer of the believers in 4:23-31?