

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for January 24, 2010

God's Work Through Peter
Acts 3:1-10

Acts 3:1-4:22 describes the initial opposition of the early church by the Jewish leaders. This opposition was triggered by Peter's second sermon in Acts 3:11-26, which came about because of the healing of the lame beggar in Acts 3:1-10.

1. The beggars's request (3:1-3)

Peter and John were going to pray (cf. Acts 2:42) at the ninth hour, which was at 3:00 in the afternoon.

a. The custom of begging

- Begging was looked down upon (Luke 16:3; cf. John 9)
- Begging was a profession
- Beggars provided others with the opportunity to receive respect from the community (Matthew 6:2-4)

b. The crippled beggar

- He was lame from birth
- He was at the temple begging daily
- He had people who carried him
- He was over forty years old (cf. Acts 4:22)
- He ascended to one of the prime begging spots
- He had not been healed by Jesus
- He could have been at the temple at key moments

2. Peter's response (3:4-6)

a. The gaze

That the beggar had to be commanded to look at Peter and John informs us that they were not alms-givers.

b. The gold

Peter's statement regarding his lack of silver and gold speaks as much to his priority as it does to his prosperity (cf. John 19:27).

c. The gift

The healing was from Jesus, the Messiah.

3. The beggar's raising (3:7-8)

The word "strengthened" was a medical term, used by a physician (cf. Colossians 4:14).

The healing was:

- real
- instantaneous
- complete
- public
- undeniable
- unexpected
- purposeful

While we do not have the ability to bring supernatural physical healing, we do have the ability to bring supernatural spiritual healing (cf. Luke 5:17-26).

4. The people's response (3:9-10)

The people recognized the beggar was healed because he went public.

The healing amazed the people and provided them with the opportunity consider not only the healing but also the Healer.

May our testimony of our spiritual healing bring opportunities for people to learn of God's offer of forgiveness in Jesus Christ.