

The Miracle at the Beautiful Gate

The Healing of the Beggar Who Was Unable to Walk (Acts 3:1-26)

1. The Promises of God becoming reality. (1-5)
 - A. Isaiah said when we see blind people being able to see, deaf people able to hear, and lame people leaping, we will know that God's promises are becoming a reality. (Isaiah 35:5-6)
 - B. Perhaps this man was under a heavy weight of shame.
 1. It seems he is not making eye contact with Peter and John.
 2. But Peter and John looked intently at him and said, "Look at us!"
 3. The Beautiful Gate is inlaid with silver and gold.
 4. It is as if Peter points at the gate and says to the man, "I have something to give you that the temple system will never be able to provide." (6)
 5. Peter and John want to give this man something that money cannot buy—the power of the name of Jesus as the source of his healing.
 - C. Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up. (3:7-10)
 1. Peter wants to be clear that this power did not come from them.
 2. Where does it come from? The power is in Jesus.
 3. Peter connects the power that raised this lame man to walk to the power that raised Jesus from the dead.
 4. This is a power they should be familiar with since they claim to be in relationship with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
 5. They are witnessing the fulfillment of God's purposes for his people.
 - D. Notice the use of the word "you" in speaking to the crowd. (11-18)
 1. If my count is correct there are 9 times he uses "you."
 2. It has only been a few weeks since some of these people were in another crowd, demanding that Jesus be crucified.
 3. Peter is not letting them off the hook. We can almost see him pointing his finger and saying, "You delivered him over"; "you denied the Holy and Righteous One"; "You asked for a murderer to be released instead"; "You killed the Author of life."

(Solomon's portico was a colonnade area along the eastern wall of the Temple)

2. What they did was actually a part of God's plan. (19-26)
 - A. They are guilty, yet this was part of God's plan.

1. The OT prophets had written that when God's King came into the world, he would be treated this way.
2. They had not seen that Jesus was God's King. They had not put it all together that Jesus fulfilled everything the OT prophets had written about the coming of the Christ.
3. But they should have known. They should have seen it. Now they have no excuse as he has set before them plainly.

B. Now there's something they must do and something they must receive.

1. Peter is still using "you" but he's no longer indicting them: he's speaking grace..
2. He's inviting them to get in on everything Jesus came to provide.
 - a. All your sins can be blotted out.
 - b. Receive the Holy Spirit who will bring wholeness and newness to your life.
3. Peter's explanation for what this miracle of the lame man walking was all about was anchored in a timeline of God's plans for history.
4. This is the time for repentance as Jesus ascended into heaven.
5. Now is the time for repentance, forgiveness.

C. Peter calls witnesses to the stand in the now-and-not-yet restoration in Jesus.

1. Moses — (22-24)
 - a. The prophets proclaimed: "these days."
 - b. What days? The days when the Spirit would be poured out, when the nations would be invited in, when restoration that God would begin in the hearts and lives of all who are in Jesus.
2. Abraham — (25-26)
 - a. The people of Israel thought of themselves as the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, the nation through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:3).
 - b. But Peter says no, this blessing comes through Jesus, the true Israelite.
3. Yes, they had first access to it, but his blessing comes to all who will no longer reject him and who will turn toward him in faith.
4. Peter is saying, you don't get this blessing of Abraham simply by being an offspring of Abraham. You get this blessing by being in Jesus.

D. This miracle is fulfillment of the promise of God.

1. The promise is fulfilled in Jesus.
2. The Spirit poured out.
3. Power is found in the person of Jesus; life-changing resurrection power.