

ACTS: The Story of Christ's Work Continues
[His Work 1:1 - His Witnesses 1:8 - His Purposes 13:36]

Discussion Questions for Sunday, October 4, 1015

The Healing at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3:1-10)

(The following is a brief recap of the main point of the sermon as well as some questions to foster discussion. Feel free to generate your own discussion questions for your group as well.)

Main idea: Jesus beautifully restores what sin makes ugly and destroys.

1. The expectation: Help me! (vv. 1-3)

What did the man expect? What did the apostles expect?

2. The exhortation: Rise up and walk! (vv. 4-6)

How might this request seem cruel at face value? Peter told the man to do something he could not do. He was commanding the impossible.

Why was it the most loving thing? Jesus could heal him. Matt. 19:26 what is impossible with man is possible with God.

3. The exaltation: Praise God! (vv. 7-10)

How do we know the healed man believed? Acts 3:16

Why this miracle? To glorify God by confirming his Word. A sign that provided an opportunity for evangelism and authenticated the gospel message when the New Testament was not yet written. To validate of the gospel message through the apostles. GOD IN HIS SOVEREIGN GOOD PLEASURE DOES AS HE PLEASES WHEN HE PLEASES.

Why are there not more healings today? Who did healings in Acts? How many healings do you find in the rest of the New Testament?

What is a healthy perspective regarding healing? We must never discount healing God gives...some of you have been healed of many things. Some haven't. It's ok to pray for it...but not to expect it. In the New Testament believers got sick. Even to the point of death. And God allowed them to stay in that condition. 2 Cor. 12:1-10 the power of Christ did not necessitate the thorn being removed. God's grace is greater than a physical healing. Any physical healing in this world is a sign of something more permanent... The purpose of healing...not a singular gift to an individual...to the greater glory of God in Christ via the Gospel transforming lives to the glory of God.

Review and Discuss the 5 Exclamation Points!

1. How fixed on Jesus they were!

2. How generous grace is!

Grace frees us to give freely. What a privilege it is to share with needy beggars the unfathomable riches of Christ!

3. How powerful God is!

William Larkin "The power was Christ's but the hand was Peter's.

Daniel Doriani said a miracle is... A direct act of God in the external world, in which he works outside – not against – the common course of events to reveal himself, authenticate his servants, and manifest his nature and redemptive purposes.

CS Lewis... An interference with nature by a supernatural power.

4. How dependent we are!

5. What a great picture of the Gospel!

How is this healing a picture of salvation and regeneration?

Salvation: This healing and faith came to one who was not looking for it.

Regeneration: The gospel calls on us to repent and believe - our hardened hearts are dead in trespasses and sins and unable to respond to these commands...And there is no way that our sins can ever be blotted out unless and until God does a secret work of making the dead alive.

What was the Purpose of healing then? To authenticate the Gospel message through the apostles. What is the Purpose of the Gospel now? To open blind eyes to gospel truth and defeat pagan lies.

Pray together. Utilizing the P-R-A-Y acrostic.

Praise God. Acknowledge His character.

Remember the Gospel. Recount Gospel truth.

Admit your need. Declare your dependence.

Yield to God. Commit everything to His sovereign good pleasure.