

Journey Through Acts
“Walking, And Leaping, And Praising God!”
Acts 3:1-11

Introduction:

1. Last Sunday Night:
 - In Our ***Journey Through Acts***:
 - We Heard The Very First Gospel Message:
 - Preached Through The Church:
 - As Peter - On That Momentous Day Of Pentecost - Told That Great Crowd In Jerusalem:
 - All About Jesus!
 - His Life!
 - His Death!
 - His Resurrection!
 - And His Continuing Work Through Them!
2. And Jesus Was ***Clearly*** At Work:
 - Because - After Being “Pricked In Their Heart” And Asking “What Shall We Do?” (2:37)
 - 2:41 - “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls!”
 - But It Didn’t Stop With That!
 - Because At The Very End Of Chapter 2 - 2:47 - “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved!”
3. And So - As We Come To:
 - Chapter 3 Tonight - We Find:
 - Peter & John Doing What They Would Normally Have Done!
 - 3:1 - “Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour!”
 - For Those Early Christians - The Temple Was Still The Place Where They Would Go:
 - For Worship & Prayer!
 - After All - Jesus Was The Jewish Messiah!
 - But It’s Interesting To Note That:
 - They Went “At The Hour Of Prayer” And Not:
 - At The Time Of The Sacrifice!
 - There Were Two Sacrifices That Were Still Being Made Each Day - One In The Morning & One In The Afternoon- And There Were Public Worship & Prayer Times Immediately After!
 - And It Was The ***Prayer Service*** They Attended!
 - Not The Sacrifice!
4. But As They Headed Into The Temple:
 - This Was They Scene They Saw:
 - 3:2 - “And a certain man lame from his mother’s womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple!”
 - It Is Not Entirely Known Where At The Temple This “Beautiful Gate” Was Located!
 - It May Be A Gate That Has Long Since Been Destroyed - Or - Many Archaeologists Believe It Is ***This*** Gate - That Stands Above A Broad Set Of Stairs - That Were Set On The Bedrock Of The Temple Mount!
 - In The 1800's, Explorers Were Granted Access To The Interior Chambers - And Noted The Beautiful Archways & Carvings!
 - So - It Seems Likely:
 - That This Man Was Carried:
 - To One Of These Steps - Where He Could See As Many People As Possible - “To Ask Alms Of Them That Entered Into The Temple!”
 - But What We Learn About This Man:
 - Is That He Had:
 1. ***A Serious Condition!***
 - He Was “Lame” - That Is:

- He Couldn't Walk Or Get Around!
 - Perhaps His Legs Were So Weak That He Couldn't Even Crawl To Or Up Those Steps!
 - Because - He Had:
- A Helpless Condition!
 - He Couldn't Provide For Himself:
 - So He Had To Sit Outside The Temple:
 - And Rely On The Gifts & Generosity Of Others!
 - He Was A Beggar!
 - But - Also:
 - He Couldn't Prepare Himself:
 - Even To Beg! He Also Had To Rely On Others:
 - Perhaps His Family & Friends - To Even Get Him To This Place To Beg!
 - And He Would Be Brought To These Steps Day After Day After Day!
 - Because It Was Also:
- A Hopeless Condition!
 - He Had Been "Lame From His Mother's Womb!"
 - He Never Had Walked!
 - And He Was Confident That He Never **Would** Walk!
 - And Perhaps He Was Feeling - At This Time:
 - Even More Hopeless!
 - Because - If He Was Known As - 3:10 - "He which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple" - Then Certainly Jesus Himself Had Seen This Man On The Steps Of The Temple At Some Point!
 - And Jesus Was Known For His Miracles!
 - So Much So That Jesus Reminded The Disciples Of John - In Luke 7:22 - "How that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached!"
 - But Now - As Far As **This** Lame Man Knew - Jesus Was Dead!
 - And Any Hope He Had For Healing Was Gone As Well!
- And Isn't This The Condition:
 - We Were All In - In A Spiritual Way:
 - Before Jesus Came Into Our Lives To Save Us?
 - In Fact - We Were In A Worse Condition!
 - This Man Was Physically Lame!
 - But We Were Spiritually Dead!
 - "Dead In Trespasses And Sins!" (Ephesians 2:1)
 - And We Were Completely Helpless:
 - And Hopeless!
 - But - Like This Man - We Can Thank God That We Had Some True Friends & Even Family Members Who Sought To Help Us Even In Our Spiritual Condition!
 - His Friends:
 - Brought Him To The Gate Of The Temple!
 - Our Friends:
 - Brought Us To The Throne Of Grace - In Prayer!
 - And Those Were Just The Right Places:
 - Where We Needed To Be!
 - Because In 3:3-6 - We See:

2. ***A Sympathetic Christian!***

- As This Lame Man Was:
 - 3:3 - "Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple [He] asked an alms!"
 - And How Did They Respond? Well, After Being With Jesus:
 - For Those Last Three Years:
 - Hearing His Teaching!
 - Seeing His Love In Action!
 - And Witnessing His Power To Heal All Kinds Of Conditions:
 - Both Physical & Spiritual!

- These “Christians” Did Not Keep Walking:
 - Up Those Steps - To Go Into The Temple:
 - To Pray - As Everyone Else Was Doing!
 - They Didn’t Try To Avoid This Man’s Eyes Or Pleas - As We Often Try To Do - By Going Through Another Gate!
 - **IE**: Ever Do This When There Is Someone Outside Wal-Mart Asking For Money - Even If They Are For Good Causes - Like The Salvation Army Or Even For Those Girl Scout Cookies!
 - No - Instead - They Had Learned:
 - Their Lessons Well:
 - From Jesus - And So They Looked On This Helpless & Hopeless Man:
- With A Christ-Like Compassion!
 - 3:4-5 - “And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. / And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them!”
 - Everyone Else Who Passed By:
 - Tried To Avoid Eye-Contact With This Lame Beggar!
 - But Not Peter & Not John!
 - They Stopped On Those Steps Before That Gate & “Fastened” Their Eyes Upon Him!
 - And They Saw Him:
 - As Jesus Saw Him!
 - As A “Lost Sheep Of The House Of Israel!”
 - And Their Hearts Were Moved For Him To Offer Him What He Needed Most – Jesus!
 - And So Peter Opened His Mouth:
 - With A Christ-Like Communication!
 - 3:6 - “Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!”
 - The Lame Man Was Hoping:
 - They Would Share Just A Bit Of Their Treasure With Him!
 - Perhaps Just A Coin Or Two - To Help Him Get Some Food Or Clothes!
 - But Peter Offered Him:
 - The Greatest Treasure Of All! A “Pearl Of Great Price!”
 - And Jesus Himself Would Meet Him That Day – To Help Him & Even Heal Him - As He Had Done For Countless Others Before His Death On The Cross!
 - He May Have Been Lost, But He Was Not Forgotten!
 - But Instead Of Just Offering These Words Of Hope To This Man - Peter Then Reached Down:
 - With A Christ-Like Contact!
 - 3:7 - “And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength!”
 - Those Foot & Ankle Bones - So Long Dormant:
 - Came To Life & Were Given Strength:
 - Through the Power Of Jesus Christ!
 - And Isn’t This What Happened To You:
 - When Were Saved By The Grace Of God?
 - You Experienced First-Hand:
 - The Great Compassion Of Jesus!
 - The Same Compassion He Had When He Was On Earth - Matthew 9:36 - “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd!”
 - And When Jesus **“Fastened His Eyes” On You:**
 - He Offered To You:
 - The Greatest Communication & Message Of All Time – The Gospel!
 - The Good News That “Christ Died For [Your] Sins According To The Scriptures!” (1 Corinthians 15:3) & “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved!” (Romans 10:9)
 - But Even Then - He Didn’t Leave You:

- To Respond On Your Own!
 - Because - Without Him - You Never Would & You Never Could!
- And So - The Spirit Of Christ Himself:
 - Touched Your Heart & Soul:
 - And Brought You To A Living Faith:
 - In Him!
 - Like The Song Bill Gaither Once Penned:
 - Shackled by a heavy burden,
 - 'Neath a load of guilt and shame.
 - Then the hand of Jesus touched me,
 - And now I am no longer the same.
 - He touched me, Oh He touched me,
 - And oh the joy that floods my soul!
 - Something happened and now I know,
 - He touched me and made me whole.
- I Don't Believe It Was Just:
 - The Feet & Ankles Of That Man That Were Healed That Day!
 - It Was His Soul As Well - Because What We See Next Is:

3. *A Special Celebration!*

- 3:8 - "And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God!"
 - He Was Healed!
 - On The Outside:
 - **And** On The Inside!
 - It Might Have Taken Him A Bit To Figure Out Just How To Use Those Old Appendages Of His!
 - But It Didn't Take Him Too Long:
 - To Go From Standing:
 - To Walking!
 - To Running!
 - And Then To Leaping!
 - All For Joy & In Praise To God!
 - Have We Lost The Sense Of This Kind Of Joy:
 - And Celebration:
 - In Our Own Lives As Christians?
 - We Still Have So Much To Be Thankful For & So Much To Praise God For!
 - In Luke 15:10 - Jesus Said:
 - "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth!"
 - Do The Angels Have More Joy In Your Great Salvation Than You?
 - We Must Never Get Over This Gospel Of God's Amazing Grace To Us!
 - May This Continue To Happen:
 - To Us! An Ongoing Celebration:
 - So That - What Happened **Then** Will Continue To Happen **Today!**
 - 3:9-10 - "And all the people saw him walking and praising God: / And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him!"
 - The Entire Life Of That Lame Man:
 - Changed In Just A Moment Of Time!
 - But It Was A Change That Would Have Long-Lasting Effects!
 - Not Only For Him - But For Those Who Knew Him - Even For Those Who Had Passed By Him On That Very Day!
 - Now - They Too:
 - "Were Filled With Wonder And Amazement!" - Even As They Were Back On The Day Of Pentecost!
 - I'm Sure That Lame Man:
 - Understood More Of What King David Meant:

- When He Wrote In Psalm 40:1-4 - "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. / He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. / And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. / Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust!"

Conclusion:

1. And So - As We Come To 3:11 - We Find Peter & John & The Lame Man & "All The People" Coming Together:
 - To Once Again - Find Out What Was Going On!
 - 3:11 - "And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering!"
 - And By God's Providence - Peter Once Again Had Another Opportunity:
 - To Share With Them All - "The Wonderful Works Of God!" (2:11)
2. Not Only Can We See From The Life Of This Lame Man:
 - What Jesus Has Done **For** Us!
 - But We Can Also See:
 - What Jesus Wants To Continue To Do:
 - **Through** Us!
 - For We Are:
 - The Body Of Christ!
 - We Are His Hands & Feet - As He Remains Our Head!
3. And So:
 - Let Us Have:
 - The Same Kind Of Compassion:
 - For Others - As Jesus Had For Us!
 - Let Us Share:
 - The Same Kind Of Communication:
 - To Others - As Jesus Shared With Us!
 - And Let Us Touch:
 - With The Same Kind Of Contact:
 - As Jesus Did To Us!
 - So That There Will Be Even More Celebration:
 - As Sinners Who Have Been Recently Brought To Life:
 - Through Faith In Jesus Christ:
 - Will Be "Walking & Leaping & Praising God" - Along With Us!

Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com