

ACTS

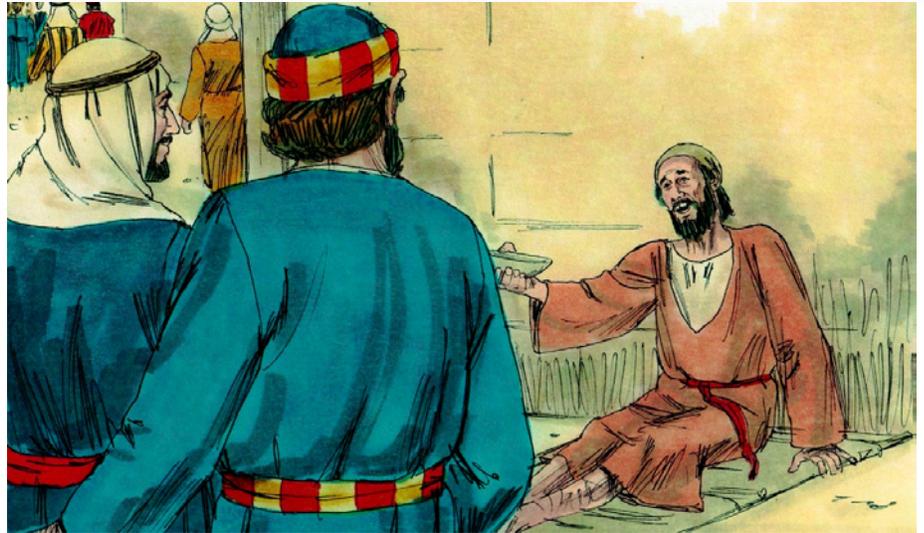
Chapter 3

Note from Kathy

Several weeks ago, I heard a woman say, “My time is my time.” I thought about her remark. Could that be true? Well, it may be for a some, but not for a believer. Time is a non-renewable resource. You cannot get more than God has ordained. We should not merely spend our time, but we should invest it in things of value. It has been said, “It is a kind heart that plants an acorn today so that one day others will enjoy shade.”

9 Acts 3:1-3

“One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.”



Observation

1. Acts 3 opens with two of the apostles going into the temple to pray. Who are the two apostles? What time of day is it?
2. Where did they enter the temple?

Take a few minutes to do some research and see what you can find out about this location. Where was it specifically?

How do you suppose it got its name?

3. Who was also at this specific location at this specific time?
4. What do you believe the man was looking for or wanted from anyone who might pass by?
5. Was there anything special about these two apostles that would

9 Acts 3:4-10

"... Then Peter said, 'Look at us!'⁵ So the man gave them his attention expecting to get something from them.⁶ Then Peter said, 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth walk.'⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping and praising God.⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God,¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit and beg at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him."

P Acts 3:12-14

"When Peter saw this, he said to them: 'Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?'¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go.¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you."

have grabbed the man's attention, or were they simply two of the many who would pass by him each day?

6. What was the first thing Peter said to the man?

What might this statement indicate about the number of people walking all around the man at this time?

What was the second thing Peter said to the man?

7. By what power did this amazing event happen?
8. The man we read about in Acts 3 was begging for just enough to get by from day-to-day. He was only thinking about the needs he had that day. But what he received would change the rest of his life. The man may have asked for money, but he received _____.

9. In an instant, this man's life was changed. What was his response?

10. According to verse 8, where did the man go?

11. This event did not take place in private. It was done in broad daylight and in a very heavily traveled area. What was the reaction of the crowd?

12. This miraculous event began drawing a huge crowd. What was Peter's response?

Acts 3:12 is a very important lesson in ministry. This could have been the start of the "Peter movement," but what did Peter say and do?

13. In Acts 3:12-18, Peter gives a summarized history lesson from the not so distant past. Read each verse below and summarize what God did and what the Israelites did in each verse.

Verse 13: God glorified his servant Jesus.

Verse 13: The Israelites

Verse 14: The Israelites

9 Acts 3:15-19

“You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.¹⁷ Now, fellow Israelites, I now that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders.¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”

9 Acts 3:26

“When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

Verse 15: The Israelites

Verse 15: God

Verse 16: The Israelites

Verse 17: The Israelites

Verse 18: God

14. In verse 19, what does Peter invite them to do?
15. Peter draws their attention back to the message of prophets. Moses was called by God to deliver His people out of bondage. What did Moses say concerning the Messiah to come?
16. What was the promise given to their forefather Abraham?

How was this promise fulfilled in Jesus?
17. Peter reminds his Jewish brothers and sisters that by God’s plan Jesus came first to whom and for what purpose?

Application

1. Peter and John probably did not wake up that morning with the thought of finding a lame man and healing him. They were simply in the right place at the right time with a desire to do things of kingdom value. Does that describe the desire of your heart?

If you were asked to name some things of eternal value, would raising godly children or mentoring a friend or helping a neighbor be on your list? These are all of great worth in God’s eyes.
2. Divine appointments are wonderful. A divine appointment is a meeting with another person that has been specifically and unmistakably ordered by God. Are you listening to the Holy Spirit as you talk to those around you? In the sidebar, describe your last divine appointment.
3. Peter and John’s attention was drawn to a man with a need. There are people all around us each day who are suffering and in need of help. Perhaps it is a grumpy boss, a sad co-worker, an unhappy neighbor or even someone who rudely cuts in line ahead of us. Do

you suppose we might see these people in a different light if we focus on our mission and the gift we have been given?

Are you available for God to use?

4. For years researchers have said it takes 21 days to develop a new good habit. Recent studies show it really takes like 60 days of repetition. What are three ideas that you could put into practice over the next 60 days that would help you develop an external, kingdom focus? These need not be huge things, just “new” things.

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5. When sharing with others what must we remember if we are to see God move? Look at Acts 3:6 once again. Where does the power come from to do miraculous things?

As believers, what is our assignment; if you are not sure, read Matthew 28:19-20. Pay close attention to the verbs and then the promise.

7. Peter gives God all the glory. There are many “spiritual leaders” who say they are doing things in Jesus’ name. How do we know if they are leaders worth following?

8. We do not know who is watching us. We do not know the trials they are dealing with or the real needs they are experiencing. Our walk of faith and our testimony to the reality of God’s goodness may be their introduction to Him. We must be careful not to allow others to elevate us, as if there is something special about us that moves the heart of God. All praise should be directed to God. Are you accepting the praise of men or directing it to God?

9. Is there a key verse that really spoke to you in this chapter? Why not try to memorize it this week? Write it out and post it everywhere around you, and read it aloud every time you see it.

10. Relationships grow by spending time together. This is how we really get to know someone. Has your relationship with God grown by spending time in His word? What did you learn about our heavenly Father as you studied this chapter?

Acts 3:6

“Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’”

Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”