

- c. Moses, did not hear from God in visions and dreams like other prophets, but face to face. Jesus is the face of God.

- ii. They must exchange rejection for listening with the intent to obey.

**Summary:** *The lame man and his inability to walk, his inability to worship, and his hopeless condition picture what we are all like apart from Jesus Christ. His healing, his walking, leaping, and praising God picture us in salvation experiencing times of refreshing—the transforming presence of the Spirit of God that enables us to walk in God's ways and enter into His presence with singing and great joy.*

#### LIVE THE STORY

*We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.*

- How does this miracle of the lame man speak to you about the nature of your own salvation? If not saved, how does it speak about your need for salvation and how to be saved?
- In light of the poetic descriptions of Isaiah 35:1-8, what was the desert and the parched land in your life from which you were saved? Are there parched lands still needing the refreshing work of the Holy Spirit?
- What might it say about Christ's saving work that the man who sat outside the temple barred from worship is now inside leaping and praising God?
- Has the Spirit's refreshing and saving work filled your mouth with joy and worship of the living God, or do you find yourself still mute in joyful worship of God?
- How does this text speak to what it means to be a Christian, a disciple? Why do you think that Christianity was initially called the Way (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 24:14, 22)(Acts 3:22-23; Isa. 35:8)
- Is there anything you more devoted to than Jesus Christ? If so, do you think it is true that you are looking to it for some form of salvation? Explain.

## What are You Looking to?

Jerry Cisar — June 22, 2014

Text: Acts 3

### Introduction

- A. Why did Jesus heal the lame man?

- i. Who healed him?

- ii. Was kind of sign is this?

- B. This miracle reveals nature of salvation.

### I. A Picture of Salvation (3:1-11)

- A. A Lame Man at the Beautiful Gate

- i. The miracle is relayed with much simplicity.

- ii. A man who had formerly been excluded is now in the temple itself praising God because of Jesus.

- B. What does this miracle communicate about salvation?

- i. We who were once excluded are now welcome into the presence of God and the people of God and can freely worship God with joy free from condemnation.

- ii. In Jesus Christ is the power that brings the salvation promised in the Prophets.

a) Isaiah 35:1-8 esp. 6

b) This is what Peter calls this “times of refreshing.”

## II. The Power of Salvation (3:12-16)

A. “Don’t look at us!”

i. Acts 14:8-18

ii. Idolatry can mask itself in any religion.

B. The Power to Make the Lame Walk and the Mute Shout

i. It begins and ends with what God has done:

a) v13 *God...has glorified his servant Jesus.*

b) V15 *God raised him from the dead.*

ii. In between are the 4 things they had done:

a) **You** handed him over to be killed...

b) and **you** disowned him....

c) <sup>14</sup>**You** disowned...and asked that a murderer be released to you.

d) <sup>15</sup>**You** killed the author of life...

iii. **In short this means 2 things:**

a) They need to be saved from God's just wrath.

b) Jesus has power to save.

C. Where do we look for this power?

## III. The Promise of Salvation (3:17-26)

A. Through the rejection, suffering, crucifixion, and resurrection/glorification of Jesus, God fulfilled what the prophets foretold—that God's Messiah would suffer.

i. They must repent of their rejection of the Messiah ... their betrayal... their idolatrous hearts that want to love everything but God.

ii. And they must return, for in their rejection of God's messiah they are cut off from God's people.

iii. What is the promise?

a) Your sins wiped out

b) Times of refreshing

c) The restoration of everything

➤ 1 Thessalonians 1:9; 1 Corinthians 1:7

➤ 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14

B. Exchanging Rejection for Listening

i. 22-23 Jesus is the prophet like Moses.

a) Jesus, God's Servant (3:13, 26)

b) Moses mediated a covenant between God and the people. Jesus mediates a new covenant.