

5/20/07

Acts 3-4

The Church continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread and prayers and God continued to add to the Church daily those who were being saved.

This was the pattern of the early Church as a witness for Jesus Christ.

Now Peter and John are going to the temple and God is going to heal the lame man, one more sign and wonder that was being done through the apostles. Acts 2:43, 5:12

3:1-10 The healing of the Lame Man.

3:1 The two apostles.

- 1) The phrase went up is the imperfect tense, were going up, you always go up to Jerusalem and the temple, due to the elevation.
- 2) The word temple "hieron" refers to the temple area.
- 3) The time of prayer was at 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. , after the sacrifice.

3:2 The condition of the man.

- 1) He was lame, a congenital condition of 40 years. Acts 4:22
- 2) The gate beautiful, was 75' h x 60' w of Corinthian brass, plated with silver and gold, tells us Josephus.
- 3) The gate led from the court of the Gentiles to the woman's court.

3:3-5 The encounter with the lame man.

- 1) He asked alms. vs. 3
- 2) Peter command the lame man to look at them. vs. 4
- 3) He gave then his attention "epecho" means looked steadfastly, fixing on them. Acts 1:10

3:6 The proclamation of the healing to the lame man.

- 1) The name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth refers to the authority. Ex. 5:23; Acts 4:7; 10; 9:27; 16:18; 19:13
- 2) God gave Peter a word of knowledge.
- 3) God gave Peter a word of wisdom.
- 4) God gave Peter the gift of faith.
- 5) God gave Peter the gift of miracles.
- 6) God gave Peter the gift of healing.

3:7 The stepped out in faith by Peter to manifest the healing.

- 1) The healing was immediate by the phrase feet, ankle bones, a medical term for the

base of the heel tuning inward and under, found only this one time in the New Testament.

- 2) The phrase received strength, also is a medical term and found two other times in the New Testament. Acts 3:16; 16:5

3:8 The lame man walked for the first time in his life.

- 1) The phrase leaping up also appears one time in the New Testament and is another medical term.

* This was one of the signs of millennium reign Is.35:6

- 2) The word leaping is found three times in the New Testament. Jn. 4:14; Acts 14:10 cripple at Lystra.

3:9-10 The crowd looked at the lame man in unbelief.

- 1) They saw him walking and praising God. vs. 9
 - 2) They knew him to be the beggar at the gate. vs. 10a
 - 3) They were filled with wonder and amazement. vs. 10b
- * They were dumbfounded and ecstasy.

3:11-26 **The second sermon of Peter.**

3:11-21a Peter pointed them to Jesus, their guilt and need of salvation.

3:11 The lame man would not let go of Peter and John.

- 1) He had never walked.
- 2) The people ran toward them amazed.
- 3) This was a test of pride and fame for Peter.

3:12-13a-e Peter told them Jesus healed the man.

- 1) Peter denies any personal inherent power or spirituality to bring about the healing. vs. 12
 - 2) God had glorified His Son Jesus, the Servant in the healing. vs. 13a-e
- * The suffering servant Jesus. Is. 42:1; 50:10; 52:13-53:12; 55:5
- 3) Peter shows the biblical teaching of the gift of the Holy Spirit, man is only an instrument or vessel. Acts 4:30

3:13f-15 Peter accuses the people for the death of Jesus.

- 1) They delivered and denied Jesus before Pilate. vs. 13f-g
 - 2) They denied the Messiah, the Holy One and Just, the anointed and righteous. vs. 14
- a) Acts 7:52; 22:14; 1Pet. 3:18; 1Jn. 2:1

b) This is Old Testament language of Messiah. Is. 53:11

3) The Prince of life, refers to the author, originator of life. Acts 5:31; Heb. 12:2; Jn. 14:6

3:16 Jesus alone was responsible for the man' wholeness.

1) In His name.

3) Through faith in His name. sovereignly.

2) The faith which comes through Him.

a) He is made strong.

b) He is in perfect soundness.

c) In the presence of all the people.

3:17-21 Peter told the people their rejection of Jesus could be forgiven.

1) He said their blindness of their crime was due to sin and spiritual darkness, ignorance. vs. 17

* Jn. 9:41; 15:22; Lk. 23:34; 1Tim.1:13.

2) He told them God foretold of the suffering and death of Jesus. vs. 18

* Delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God but it did not clear them from their guilt of giving their voice against the Messiah. Acts 2:23

3) Invitation for salvation. vs. 19

a) The word repent "metanoeo" means to change one's mind.

b) Converted "espistrepho" means to turn again.

c) The times of refreshing mean periodic cooling or reviving with fresh air, as the result of peace and cleansing from sin, as well as when needed in difficulties.

d) The origin is from the presence of the Lord.

4) Jesus would come in spirit to them. vs. 20

5) Jesus would come the second time at the times of restoration. vs. 21a

a) This phrase appears this one time the New Testament, referring to the millennial Kingdom.

* Matt. 19:28; Rom. 11:25-26; Mal. 4:5; Acts 1:6; 15:14-18; 1Cor. 15:14

b) Times "kairos" is in the plural being two-fold; first the Millennium, then the New Heaven and new earth. Rev.

3:21b-26 Peter points the people to the prophets.

3:21b The prophets revealed the coming of Messiah. vs. 21b

1) The prophets were the mouth-piece of God.

2) They revealed this from the beginning of the world. Gen. 3:15

- * “Now **Enoch**, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, “Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints.” Jude 14

3:22-23 Moses revealed Jesus to come.

- 1) One like Moses, anointed, mediator, seed of Abraham, sent to be obeyed. vs. 22
* Deut.18:15-19
- 2) Whoever rejected Jesus would and will be destroyed. vs. 23
* 70 A.D. Titus.

3:24 Samuel to Malachi revealed Jesus to come.

- 1) He was the last judge.
- 2) He was the first prophet of the many to follow and stands as the head of the prophets. 2Sam. 7:12

3:25 Abraham revealed Jesus to come.

- 1) They were the son of Abraham, the seed.
- 2) They were the sons of the covenant.
- 3) They knew God had promised Abraham that in him the families of the earth would be blessed. Gen.12:1-3; Gal. 3:16

3:26 God was faithful to His promise and covenant but they rejected it.

- 1) To the Jew Jesus came first but the rejected Him. Jn. 1:11

- 2) God raised Jesus and sent Him to bless them, if they turned from their iniquities. Rom. 1:16; 2:9-10

4:1-22 The opposition by the Sanhedrin.

4:1-4 The Arrest of Peter and John.

4:1-2 The preaching brought persecution even as Peter and John they were speaking.

- 1) The priest were the ministering priests. vs. 1
- 2) The captain of the temple “sagan” the priest second to High Priest over temple police. vs. 1
- 3) The Sadducees were the rationalists and wealthy aristocrats who denied the resurrection, angels or spirits. vs. 1
* Acts 23:8
- 4) They were indignant that they taught the resurrection in Jesus name. vs. 2

4:3 The apostles were arrested.

- 1) They got there at the ninth hour, 3:00.M.P.
- 2) They must of been there about three hours, now being evening therefore they arrested them!

4:4 The preaching of the apostles was fruitful.

- 1) The number brought salvation was about 5,000.
- 2) Some say this is the total with 3,000 from Pentecost but it doesn't say that at all.

4:5-12 The trial Before the Sanhedrin.

4:5 The members of the Sanhedrin.

- 1) The rulers were the priests and officials.
- 2) The elders were the heads of families.
- 3) The scribes were the interpreters of the law.

4:6 The family of the high priest.

- 1) Annas ruled from 6-15A.D. and was of the Sadducees and rightful priest.
- 2) Caiaphas ruled from 18-36A.D. and was appointed by Rome and was the son-in-law of Annas. Lk.3:2
- 3) The entire Sanhedrin, the supreme court of Israel, 72 people.

4:7 The inquiry of the apostles.

- 1) They set the apostles in their midst, tradition tells us they form a semi-circle around the offender.
* Josephus says, they met outside of the west wall of the temple area.
- 2) They enquired two things.
 - a) By what power "dynamis" did the healing take place.

* The asked Jesus the same when He cleansed of temple. Matt. 21:23

- b) By whose name, implying authority.
* Deut. 13:1-11

4:8-12 The response of Peter.

- 1) Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit addressed them with respect. vs. 8
 - a) This is the third sermon of Peter.
 - b) There are many fillings. Eph.5:18, Acts 2:4; 4:31; 9:17; 13:9
- 2) Peter knew they were being judged for the good deed done to the lame man and what means. vs. 9
- 3) Peter began to preach Christ Jesus. vs. 10-12
 - a) The authority was in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom they crucified.
 - b) The power was that of the resurrection from the dead.
 - c) Jesus was responsible for the wholeness of the man.
- 4) Peter pointed to the prophecy of Jesus being the cornerstone. vs.11
 - a) He was to one rejected as the stone by the builders!
 - b) He is the chief cornerstone.
* Ps. 118:22; Matt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Lk. 20:17; Is. 28:16

- 5) Peter told them that the name of Jesus is the only one for men to be saved vs.12
 * The word must “dei” means necessity, no other option!

4:13:22 The verdict of the Sanhedrin.

4:13 The observation of the council.

- 1) They perceived their boldness “parrhesia” literally freedom of speech.
 - a) They were not intimidated by the council.
 - b) They were courage and confident.
- 2) They perceived they were uneducated “idiotes” in the Rabbinical schools.
 - a) This appears only this one time in the New Testament.
 - b) Another form is used for Jesus. Jn. 7:15
- 3) They perceived they were untrained “agrammatos” in the synagogue instruction, literally “unlettered” and marveled.
- 4) They realized they had been with Jesus.

4:14 They could not deny the healing.

- 1) The man was cripple but now was standing with them.
- 2) They could not deny the evidence.

4:15-18 The council had a conference to deliberate.

- 1) They put the apostles aside to confer. vs. 15
- 2) They had a problem. vs. 16
 - a) They did not know what to do to the men.
 - b) The miracle was done public and evident to all in Jerusalem.
 - c) They could not deny it.
- 3) Their conclusion was to severely threatened them and commanded them not to preach in the name of Jesus. vs.17
- 4) The commanded them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. vs. 18

4:19-20 The response of the apostle to the council.

- 1) Peter and John declared obedience to God was the priority and placed it back in their laps, “you judge”. vs. 19
 - a) Woe to me, if I preach not the gospel... 1Cor. 9:16
 - b) Obedience to the state or government is commanded until they contradict the moral and ethical word of God. Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet.2:13-17
- 2) Peter and John were going to be faithful witnesses of the gospel and miracles. vs. 20

4:21-22 The final outcome.

- 1) They further threatened them and let them go. vs. 21a-b
- 2) The reason being they could find no way of punishing them, due to the people, who all glorified God for what had been done. vs. 21c-e
* They feared the people more than God!
- 3) The man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed. vs. 22
* The man was a type of Israel in the 40 years of wondering, dead!

4:23-31 **The apostles' report and prayer regarding their arrest and threats.****4:23-28** Peter and John told all of the apostles.

- 1) They were released and joined back with the believers.
- 2) They told them all of all the threats of the chief priest and elders.

4:24-31 The response of the community of God's redeemed.

- 1) They raised their voices to God in one accord in praise. vs. 24
* The phrase one accord appears eleven times in Acts and one only time elsewhere!

- 2) They addressed God as Lord "despot" which means master or owner. vs. 24
- 3) They acknowledged His Omnipotence in view of the treats, He is Creator of heaven, earth, the seas and all in them. vs. 24
- 4) They understood the prophetic significance of Psalm one, not only as prophetic of the Second Coming of Messiah but also as a principle of persecution against the community of God's Redeemed. vs. 25-26
* Ps. 2:1-2
- 5) They even applied it to the First Coming of Jesus regarding Herod and Pilate, understanding that God was in control fulfilling prophecy. vs. 27-28

4:29-31 The prayer of the community of God's redeemed.

- 1) For God to note the threats and give them boldness to speak the word. vs. 29
- 2) For God to heal and do signs and wonders through the name of His Holy Servant Jesus. vs. 30
* These were to follow them, they would not be following signs and wonders!
- 3) The result was three-fold. vs. 31
 - a) The place was shaken.
* The earthquake at Philippi while Paul was in jail. Acts 16:26

- b) They were filled or baptized again with the Holy Spirit.
- c) They spoke the word of God with boldness, freedom of speech.

4:32-37 The communal life of the early Church.

* Chapter 5 should begin here, this would be a better division, more natural.

4:32 The believers were very benevolent with each other.

- 1) They were of one heart and soul.
- 2) They did not hoard personal things.
- 3) They shared all things in common.
 - a) This is commendable, an incredible demonstration of the love of God.
 - b) The motive was sincere and loving but it was not the wisest.
 - c) The church of Jerusalem soon was in poverty and Paul made a collection for it.
 - d) The wise thing is to make your money work, so as not to depend on others as a testimony of a good and faithful steward.

4:33 The apostles were witnessing to all the gospel.

- 1) They gave evidence of great power of the resurrection.

- a) I am sure in salvation.
- b) And in miracles, etc.
- 2) They experienced great grace upon them, found only this time.

4:34-35 The needs of the people were being met by the community.

- 1) All the needs were met. vs. 34a
- 2) They sold their properties as the needs arose. vs. 34b-c
- 3) They gave the funds to the apostles to be distributed. vs. 35

4:36-37 The man Barnabas was one who donated money.

- 1) Barnabas was nicknamed by the apostles son of consolation because of his benevolence. vs. 36a-b
- 2) He was a Levite of the country of Cyprus. vs. 36c
 - a) Levites could not own land in the Old Testament. Num.18:20; Deut.10:8.
 - b) He was the brother of John Marks mother.
- 3) Barnabas sold some land and gave it to the apostles for the church. vs. 37