

A Lame Man Healed.

Acts 3:1-10.

Sunday morning, August 23, 2009.

I. A man lame from his mother's womb.

- A. Peter and John go to the temple at the ninth hour, which was 3.00pm.
- B. A man, lame from his mother's womb, and now more than 40 yrs old (4:22), was laid daily at the beautiful gate of the temple to beg for alms.
 1. All those entering the temple complex from the East, or from the direction of the Mount of Olives, from Bethany and Bethpage, would enter the Outer Court of the temple complex through the Golden Gate. Then they would enter the Court of the Women through the beautiful gate.
 2. It was called the beautiful gate because of its massive and very ornate doors made of fine polished Corinthian brass. Josephus records that it took 10 men to open and close these massive doors.
- C. A question arises from the words "whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called beautiful..."
 1. Had not the Lord Jesus entered the temple complex this way many times? During the final week of His ministry following the triumphal entry, He had stayed with His friends Martha and Mary and Lazarus whom He had raised from the dead. They lived in Bethany on the Mount of Olives.
 2. During that week the Lord ministered daily in the temple and would have entered that very way. Had the Lord somehow missed this poor man, and had this poor man missed the Lord all this time? From the words "whom they laid daily..." that seems unlikely.
 3. Had the Lord bypassed him; perhaps speaking a few kind words; perhaps giving him some alms, but leaving it at that? Why, when the Lord had healed so many, had not the Lord healed this poor man also?
From what we can gather from the Biblical text, the Lord seems to have passed him by during his earthly ministry. What do we learn from that?
- D. There are seasons of grace, and there are early and late bloomers.
 1. As it is in the realm of nature so it is in the realm of grace. Crocus and Snowdrops and Skunk Cabbage are among the earliest to bloom. The Montauk Daisy is among the last flowers around in the fall.
 2. The apostle Paul speaks of the timing of his own conversion in his letter to the Galatians. He refers to it as: "When it pleased God... to reveal His Son in me..." Gal.1:15,16. That was the season of grace.
 3. In Matthew 20:1-16 the Lord tells the parable of the laborers in the vineyard. The laborers were hired at all different parts of the day; some only at the last hour, yet all received the same reward. These different times of being hired are the seasons of grace.
 4. Many a time the Lord allows time for us to learn the depths of our bondage and corruption before He visits us with His saving grace. Be patient and willing to wait for the right season.

II. Silver and gold have I none... Vs. 6.

Note here the method of grace.

- A. Grace directs out attention away from earthly things; away from the things that are seen. Grace disappoints our fondest ambitions for ourselves and this world. Indeed it takes the cross to them. An elderly saint, looking back over his life, and looking back at his prayers in particular, said this: "I got nothing I asked for, but everything I could have hoped for; among all men I am most richly blessed."
- B. Grace directs our attention to the only One that matters; that is the Lord Jesus Christ. Being rightly related to Him; having Him come and take up His dwelling place in our souls, that is the souls chief, and indeed only treasure. All other matters in life are trifles compared to that.
- C. Grace comes and visits this man in the persons of John and Peter. Grace comes and enables this man to embrace Jesus Christ as He is offered to him in the Gospel (Vs. 16), and the healing powers of the age to come flood through this man's body. Not only do his feet and ankles become strong, but he who never learned how to walk is now walking and leaping and praising God.
- D. Few are the evils that remain when Jesus comes and cleanses His temple, and the ones that remain have their evil taken out of them, for now all things must walk together for good.

III. He took him by the right hand and lifted him up... Vs. 7-10.

There are no hopeless cases.

- A. By nature we are in worse shape than this poor man. He had lame feet and ankles, but all the faculties of our fallen natures are crippled as a result of the fall.
- B. Grace visits us as it did this poor man; it visits us in the preaching of the gospel. It tells us "Silver and gold have I none." But I set before you something better; the Name of Jesus Christ. It tells us, get up and go forth in His strength.
- C. The gospel will disappoint if you are looking for a life of comfort and ease; a life of fame and fortune. It takes our earthly and worldly ambitions to the cross. It comes to you saying: "Silver and gold have I none..."
- D. What do you want to have more than anything else in life? What is your fondest ambition? Have you come to the place where you can say that it is for the Lord Jesus Christ to come and visit you with His grace. For Him to abide in the house of your life?
- E. Then know two things:
 - 1. That He will come. If you are like Zacheus, waiting in your fig tree for Jesus to pass by, then know that He will come and say to you as he did to Zacheus: "Come down, for today I must abide in your house."
 - 2. That there are no hopeless cases.
It does not matter what your lame conditions are. It does not matter which way you are crippled. Jesus will come and cleanse His temple. He will take you by the hand and lift you up. Few will be the evils that remain, and those that do will have their sting taken out of them as has death (1 Cor. 15:55,56).

Only

look to Him; embrace Him and let Him be your all.