

The Healing Of The Lame Man Applied.

Acts 3:17-26.

Sunday morning, September 6, 2009.

I. "I know that you did it in ignorance..." Vs. 17.

What was the nature of this ignorance?

It was their employment of the Lord in the promoting of their own agenda.

"My Kingdom come!"

- A. They saw their wisdom and understanding as the measure of all things, and they expected and asked the Lord to add His blessing to their wisdom, understanding, and agenda; after all they sat in Moses' seat. Never did it cross their minds that they might have it all wrong, and that they might be no more than the blind leading the blind. When the Lord Jesus came into the world and challenged their wisdom, they did away with Him and crucified Him.
- B. It was their Messianic expectation which they employed to get out from under the Romans, and their hope that the Messiah would establish them at the head of all nations. This was an utterly selfish expectation. When the Lord Jesus did not deliver on that, they rejected and crucified Him.
- C. It was their establishing their own righteousness by way of the observance of the law. As the apostle Paul would put it regarding the days of his being a Pharisee: "concerning the righteousness which is in the law (I was) blameless." Phil. 3:6. This was a cause of great pride, and a being full of himself. Never did it cross their minds that the law was pointing out their sinfulness and their need for a more permanent solution than temporal sacrifices. The result was a very high view of themselves, and a looking down on everyone around them, and a sense that the Lord was obligated to bless them.

Applications:

1. This shows the bankruptcy of human wisdom, and the need for divine grace to truly be wise. Here the admonition of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians (who also thought much of their own wisdom) applies: "If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool (in his own esteem) that he may become wise (by the Lord's grace). 1 Cor. 3:18.

- We can never prove God by the light of a depraved and darkened human intellect. God wants to be assumed as the foundation of all true wisdom and knowledge.

- Have you ever come to the end of your own wisdom and adopted a lowly view of yourself; have you ever asked the Lord to guide you like a little child? Here the Lord's words apply: "Assuredly I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of God." Matt. 18:3.

2. Are you opinionated and assured of your own wisdom in dealing with your fellow man? Do you assume too much, too quick?

3. In your praying do you employ the Lord to bless your plans and purposes for your life, and for the lives of others? Or have you come to the place of Joining His agenda?

II. The surprising ways of God. Vs. 18.

“Those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.”

The true work of God, which is the only thing of importance, goes on below the radar screen of carnal human consciousness, bypassing it totally.

- A. Look how God formed Joseph in Potiphar’s court and in Pharaoh’s dungeon to become a king in Egypt and the savior of his people. He did so totally below the radar screen of human consciousness.
- B. Look at how the Lord formed Moses in Pharaoh’s court and while tending to Jethro’s flocks in the Sinai desert, to become the deliverer of His people. It was totally below the radar screen of the consciousness of both the Egyptians and the Israelites.
- C. Look at how He brought the Lord Jesus into the world below the radar screen of the consciousness of the religious authorities of that day.
- D. Look at how the Lord Jesus ended His life on earth. Below the radar screen of human consciousness God fulfilled all His good pleasure, and He did so in spite of man’s intentions.

Applications:

- 1. This truth teaches us that the Lord’s thoughts and ways are not our thoughts and ways, and that His ways and thoughts are far higher than ours. This should humble us.
- 2. This truth teaches us to abandon ourselves to God’s higher ways, and to stop asking the Lord to bless the wonderful plans we have for our lives.
- 3. This teaches us to pray with Moses in Psalm 90:16 “Let Your work appear unto Your servants...” for that is the only work that counts and is worth something in the end.

III. “Repent... that your sins may be blotted out... that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Vs. 19.

- A. A total change of mind is called for.
 - 1. It is no longer us giving the Lord a corner of our lives, but us receiving a little place in His kingdom.
 - 2. It is no longer the wonderful plans we have for our lives, which we ask the Lord to bless and establish for us, but it is His plans and purposes alone that now remain.
“Let Your work appear unto your servants...”
- B. It is an abandoning of our own wills and ways and wisdom for the higher ways and will and wisdom of God. It is a taking our place as humble servants in His kingdom rather than an asking the Lord to bless and establish our kingdom.
- C. In so doing we receive Christ as He is offered to us in the gospel.
 - 1. In Him our sins are blotted out and remembered no more. Jeremiah 31:34.
 - 2. In Him a whole new and refreshing energy is poured out in our souls by the Holy spirit. A new peace and rest; a new hope and joy; a new vitality causing us to walk and not be weary, even to run and not faint. Isaiah 40:31
 - 3. To this end He was sent to us to bless us.
This blessing becomes ours in the process of self abandonment. Acts 3:26.