

## The Lame Man's Healing explained.

Acts 3:11-16.

Sunday morning, August 30, 2009.

### I. Personal greatness deflected. Vs. 11,12.

- A. The lame man who now was walking and leaping and praising God is said to have held on to Peter and John.

We understand the sense of these words to be that he stayed with them, not that he physically needed their support because he was still somewhat wobbly on his feet. Rather he stayed in their presence because they were his benefactors.

- B. As he was walking and leaping and praising God he attracted the attention of the many people coming into the temple complex at that hour, for it was the hour of prayer. Vs. 1.

They recognized him as the man that had been laying at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, for he had been a fixture there for many years.

- C. Naturally they look in amazement to Peter and John as to how they got such power or godliness as to effect such a miracle.

1. "Our own power." Pagan traditions and legends believed in men that had been endowed with healing powers by the gods.
2. "Or godliness." Jewish traditions spoke of men so pious that God was obligated to hear them; a tradition that was carried forward into the Christian Church in the way some view the mother of Jesus and departed saints.

- D. Here was an opportunity for these disciples to boost their battered self-images and their self-esteem.

1. They were Galileans. If you were a Galilean you were not much in those days. You were despised and looked down upon; you were from the wrong part of town. All the disciples were Galileans except Judas who betrayed the Lord; he was from Judea. The Lord loved lowly things.
2. They were uneducated men. They were out of their league in Jerusalem which abounded with learned men.
3. Here was an opportunity for Peter and John to get some respect out of the crowd gathered around them.

- E. Why do you look so intently at us...?

They deflect every attempt of the people to ascribe greatness to them, whether in the form of personal power or piety, and they ascribe it all to God the Father and his Son Jesus alone.

- F. Where then does the Christian legitimately get a healthy self-image and self-esteem?

1. Ever since the fall man has had great cause to humility and self-abasement.
2. The Christian sees what he is by nature as "under the law; under the curse, and joined to the cross of Christ." With the apostle he learns to say: "Whatever things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ." Phil. 3:7.
3. When the apostle Paul speaks about his works being more abundant than all the other apostles, once again he deflects all praise away from himself by adding: "Yet not I but the grace of God that was with me." 1 Cor.15:10.  
He does not build his self-esteem on his works.

4. When in 2 Cor. 11:16-12:11 the apostle discourses on boasting he calls himself a fool for doing so, and he does so over and over again (11:16,17,23 and 12:1,11). He will not base his self image and esteem on his works; not even on what he suffered for the gospel.
5. Where then does the Christian get his self-esteem?  
In Phil. 3:8-10 the apostle alludes to his foundation for his self-esteem as "The excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord... that I may gain Christ and be found in Him...that I may know Him..."
6. It is the way God has esteemed you in Christ. The way He has loved you in Christ. The way He has constituted you a treasure hidden in a field for which a man gave all that he had that he might have that treasure. And the way he constituted you a pearl of great price for which a man gave all that he had that he might have it. God has demonstrated His love for you in this way; He has esteemed you in this way; do you believe that?
7. On what have you built your self-esteem?

## II. Personal greatness acclaimed.

- A. It is the greatness of the Person of Christ. Vs. 13-16.
  1. He was God's Servant Jesus.
  2. God has vindicated and glorified Him in the resurrection.
  3. He is the Holy One and the Just.
  4. He is the Prince of life or The Originator.
- B. "His Name, and through faith in His Name has made this man strong".  
Why the emphasis on His Name? Why not just say, as we would do today, that it was Jesus who healed the lame man?  
Because the Name stands for who the person is:
  1. Jesus; He is the savior.
  2. He is the holy One and the Just; The Messiah who was to come.
  3. The Prince or Originator of life; Redemption life; eternal life; life in fellowship with God.
  4. Lord; Master and Owner.
  5. Christ; the anointed One, anointed with the Holy Spirit.
- C. "Through faith; faith which comes through Him..."
  - A. This excludes all boasting and all merit; even about believing.
    1. This reduces men to mere beggars.
    2. This shuts us up to Christ alone.
  - B. This includes an expectation and a hope which shall not be disappointed.
    1. It is in a real sense a purposeful waiting at a beautiful gate, for it is the  
gate  
of God's mercy.
    2. There the Lord Jesus tells us to keep on knocking, asking and seeking  
Luke 11:9.
    3. Here we are called to be like the importunate widow who would not give  
the judge rest. Luke 18:1-7.
    4. Here we pray without ceasing. 1 Thess. 5:17