

Introduction: Jesus' Resurrection impacts every life in these 'last days' of the Church Age from His first coming until His second coming. *** Perhaps the greatest benefit of The Resurrection of Jesus is that ALL people may now experience full and total healing IN His Name. We are all born broken. We are all walking contradictions, capable of acting inconsistently. As difficult as physical imperfections in our body can be, the fragmenting of our inner being, leading us to behave in ways contrary to what we think we believe, is worse. (*Romans 7*) *** The first act of the apostles, after three thousand men became disciples of Jesus on the day of Pentecost (*Acts 2:29-43*), was the complete healing of a man who had been lame for the more than forty years he had lived. Luke gives us a long account of this (*Acts 3:1-4:22*, 48 verses). We are only considering about one third of Luke's account. *** An historian, Luke first narrates what happened in the late afternoon in the Temple courts. He gives it in the manner of Sgt. Friday: 'Just the facts'. Then Luke gives a summary of the evangelistic Gospel sermon Peter preached and the aftermath. We will only consider the first half of Peter's sermon. In it Peter gives the story of Jesus through His Resurrection. Then he says, by The Faith which comes through the resurrected Jesus, people may be made fully whole. *** Now, let's go deeper into Luke's account.

I. The narration of the miracle done IN The Name of Jesus. (*Verses 1-10*)

A. Peter and John, on their way to prayer in the Temple, are asked for a merciful donation by a man lame from birth. (*Verses 1-3*)

1. Peter and John were going up to the Temple on the ninth hour of prayer. (*Verse 1*)

Temple: At this time all Christians were Jews living in Jerusalem. Jesus is The King of the Jews. His disciples continued to worship in Yahweh's Temple. This was the mid-afternoon prayer meeting, nine hours after dawn. The Sadducees came after Peter proclaimed The Resurrection of Jesus and put Peter and John in jail because it was almost evening. (*Acts 4:1-3*)

2. And a man lame from birth was set down every day at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple so he could beg alms (a merciful donation of coins) from those entering the Temple. (*Verse 2*)

Forty years: In his last sentence Luke tells us he was more than forty years old. (*Acts 4:22*)

Gate: Most people entered the courts of Herod's enhanced Temple (with two more courts than the Temple rebuilt after the Babylonian exile) through a gate facing south. It entered into the court of the non-Jews. From the eastern end of this court people could go through the (Beautiful) Gate into the women's court which had been added to the east of the original Temple court.

3. The man, seeing Peter and John about to enter the Temple, kept asking to receive alms. (*Verse 3*)

Asking apostles: Jesus' followers had just turned ALL their possessions into gold and silver coins. As stewards of much silver and gold, the apostles could have made a merciful donation. (*Acts 2:42-47*)

B. Peter gives the man three quick commands TO give him healing IN The Name. (*Verses 4-8*)

1. After Peter, with John, fixed his gaze on the lame man, he said, 'Look at us!' (*Verse 4*)

Personal: This first command was very personal. Peter has paid attention to the man as a person and demands the same attention be given back to him.

2. The man was giving attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. (*Verse 5*)

Expectations: The last word is 'to receive'. He expected coins. What he got was much more. God is able to do super-abundantly more than we can ask or understand. (*Ephesians 3:14-21*)

3. Peter said, 'I am not possessing silver or gold, but what I am having (always), this I am giving to you: (*Verses 6a-b*)

4. IN The Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!' (*Verses 6c-d*)

The Faith IN The Person and Work: 'The Name' of the Savior-King encompasses His full Person and Work from before creation, to now, and until He returns. When His followers use His Name IN The Faith of Him AND His birth, death and resurrection, He will do miracles! Peter's last two commands of faith were for the man to rise up and walk.

5. After seizing him by the right hand, Peter raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were strengthened. (*Verse 7*)

Peter: Peter joined hands with the lame man because he had God's love for him. As he would say later, Peter's actions had nothing to do with what God did.

Raised up: The word for what Jesus did for the lame man is the word used for Jesus' Resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, He can do any miracle. Raising a living lame man to his feet is a rather small miracle for Jesus.

6. And with a leaping up, he stood and began walking, and entered with them into the Temple, walking and leaping and praising The God. (*Verse 8*)

Full healing: We will find out later this was a full healing of body, soul and spirit. But Luke has already given us a big hint: Only those with healed spirits can exuberantly praise The God!

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C. As the healed man walks, leaps and praises God, the people are filled with wonder and amazement. (*Verses 9-10*)

1. And all the people saw him walking and praising The God. (*Verse 9*)

See: Many people begin to experience God's power after they see an amazing miracle.

2. And they were knowing that he was the one sitting at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple asking to receive alms. (*Verse 10a*)

Knew past life: All people know that men who have been lame all their lives do not suddenly start walking and praising God, while leaping in His Presence!

3. And they were filled with wonder and amazement. (*Verse 10b*)

Wonder: When Jesus was rejected at Nazareth, Luke said the people were filled with wonder at His teaching with power to drive out unclean spirits (*Luke 4:14-37*). Peter and his companions were filled with wonder when they had a great catch of fish in the daytime because of Jesus (*Luke 5:1-11*).

Healing in The Name of Jesus amazes people

II. As all the people run to Solomon's Porch, Peter preaches The Gospel and explains the gift of being made whole.

(Verses 11-16)

A. But the healed man clung to Peter and John after all the people ran together: fully amazed. (Verse 11)

1. But while the man born lame is clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together. (Verse 11a)

2. To Solomon's Porch: full of wonder. (Verse 11b)

Solomon's porch: Solomon's Porch was to the east of the women's court. It was where Jesus had a confrontation with the Jews concerning His teaching and miracles (John 10:22-42). And, it was where the apostles restored to health ALL who were sick and tormented by unclean spirits (Acts 5:12-16).

Full of wonder: In the repetition of the effect of this miracle on the people, Luke uses an even stronger word for their sense of wonder and amazement over this miracle IN Jesus' Name!

Healing in The Name of Jesus amazes people

B. Having seen this, Peter replies: Israelites! Why do you marvel as if by our own power we made him walk? (Verse 12)

1. Having seen, Peter replies: 'Men! Israelites! Why are you all wondering over this, or gazing at us. (Verse 12a)

Preaching opportunity: When ALL the people run 'full of wonder', Peter seizes the opportunity to preach, just as he had at Pentecost (Acts 2:14-36). We are only considering his explanation of what happened. (Read his exhortation for them to repent to be refreshed and restored to God, verses 17-22).

2. AS IF by our own power or piety we made him to walk. (Verse 12b)

Fellow Israelites: This has not happened because of us! He will tell his fellow Israelites about The God of their fathers and His glorified Servant Messiah. Be full of wonder over Him!!!

C. The God of our fathers has glorified His Servant Jesus! (Verses 13a-b)

God of our fathers: He goes back two thousand years to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Israel).

Glorified His Servant: This glorified Servant was prophesied about by Isaiah four times. (Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-7; 50:4-11; and 52:13-53:12)

Isaiah: The last, and greatest, prophecy has five parts: (1) He will teach and be lifted up, His face and appearance disfigured He will startle many nations about what they have not been told or seen; (2) He grew up in humility, despised and rejected; (3) He surely bore our griefs and sorrows because of our transgressions, but gave us peace and healing, after we turned away, Yahweh put our iniquity on Him; (4) He was quiet in oppression, cut off for Yahweh's people, His grave was with the wicked because He did no violence or deceit; (5) after His soul became a sin offering, He prospered with offspring, justified many because He handed over His soul to death, bearing sin, and handed Himself over to intercession. [In His last two deeds, Yahweh's Servant hands Himself over on behalf of the people who handed Him over to death (verse 13c).]

D. Whom you all handed over and disowned, The Holy and Righteous One, you all killed The Author of Life. (Verses 13c-15a)

1. You all indeed handed Him over, disowning Him before Pilate. (Verses 13c-d)

2. You all disowned The Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be given life. (Verse 14)

3. And you all put to death (killed) The Author of Life. (Verse 15a)

Puts guilt on ALL of them: Peter minces no words. They totally rejected The Holy and Righteous One Who had come to give them eternal, abundant and meaningful life. (John 3, 10, 15)

Irony of Life: How ironic that sinful and rebellious people could kill The One Who IS Life Himself. (John 1:4; 14:6)

E. Of Whom we are witnesses God raised Him from the dead; and, His Name and The Faith through Him has made this man totally healed. (Verses 15b-16)

1. We are being witnesses: God raised Him from the dead. (Verse 15b)

God raised: In so doing, The Trinity demonstrated wonderful power to reverse the rejection of sinful and rebellious people!

2. On The Faith of His Name, The Name of Him has made strong this one you all are seeing and knowing. (Verse 16a-b)

The Faith-Name: Therefore, by The Faith that comes through The Resurrected One and His Name, may we BOTH take responsibility in His death AND take the opportunity to be forgiven and healed by The Faith that comes IN His Name!

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3. The Faith which comes through Him has given to him the total healing in the presence of you all. (Verse 16c)

Totally healed: Every part of the lame man has been healed. His whole being (body and soul and spirit) has been totally healed, resulting in him being complete in every way. In other words, he is now being fully restored to God's image in addition to the healing of his lame feet and ankles! It will be a lifelong process.

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The Faith through Jesus: The preposition used by Luke makes it clear that no one can muster up The Faith out of his own resources. We must have God's help IN His Savior Son! The Faith that will enable us to walk with God in righteousness is ONLY through The Resurrected Jesus. IN Him, our broken, inconsistent and contradictory lives (spiritually lame) can be totally healed! God alone is faithful. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

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Conclusion: By The Faith that comes through The Savior-King of Nazareth and His Resurrection, Peter and John raise up a forty year old man who had been lame from birth to total healing. And, as a result all the people are amazed in wonder!

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And, faith through Him can also give us total healing.