

## Filled With Wonder

Acts 3

### Introduction

This week Facebook's founder and his wife pledged 3 billion dollars toward curing all disease in the lifetime of our children. Wouldn't that be something? But what if I told you that curing all sickness and all disease of every human being on the planet wouldn't even be scratching the surface of the problems facing humanity. In Acts chapter 3 tells us about a miracle which serves as a window to the answer to our truest and deepest needs.

### The Miracle (v. 1-8)

A beautiful picture in Acts 2 → but we must move on to Acts 3

This is the first miracle after Pentecost

First thing they run into is a needy man

The man

A man lame from birth (from his mother's womb)

Carried and laid daily at the Temple to ask alms

Lady in the wheel chair in Atlanta (abuse)

Imagine the plight of this man – "If only I could walk, I could work/have a family/etc."

Why me?

Peter and John

"I have no silver and gold"

"But what I do have I give to you"

*They have something infinitely more valuable than Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg's billions*

"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"

"Took him by the right hand and raised him up.

Fulfillment of OT prophecy Isaiah 35:5-6

### The Miracle's Results (v. 9-13)

The formerly lame man – walking and leaping and praising God

v. 10 recognized him and "they were filled with wonder and amazement"

v. 11 all the people were utterly astounded, ran together

v. 12 Peter deflects attention away from himself and John and away from the miracle itself

One of the problems of miracles

Many people in the Bible were amazed by miracles who never came saving faith in Christ. In fact some witnessed miracles and it only served to illustrate and magnify the hardness of their hearts.

### The Miracle's Goal (v. 13-26)

Let's ask ourselves what was the goal of this miracle. In other words, what was God's purpose for it?

John 9:1-3

And so it is with this man, what he has suffered for over 40 years is going to cause him to experience the power of God in ways he otherwise couldn't have imagined. And not only that... through this man's

circumstances thousands of people would hear the Gospel and come to know Christ as Savior.

Interesting – at this point, you might think that the Apostles would set up a clinic... they don't. Peter and John knew that there was a disease underneath every other disease. And they knew that if you don't deal with the disease underneath then you're only treating symptoms, not the cause.

Imagine that we were able to cure every disease, feed every hungry child, and house every homeless family. But all of those people never hear the Gospel and come to know Christ? What have we done? We've only made them more comfortable for a short time while they are on their way to an eternity of misery separated from the love of God.

The greatest need of every human being is to have an encounter with the Great Physician, Jesus Christ, so that he can deal with the main disease underneath all other diseases.

v. 22 **A prophet like Moses** "You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you."

v. 23 Every soul who does not listen to him shall be destroyed from the people.

In other words, for those who choose to ignore the gospel of Jesus Christ, natural diseases like being lame are the least of your worries. And yet for those who will hear, a glorious future awaits you, beyond all compare.

This message of the gospel is very personal and it's very confrontational.

v. 13 You delivered over and denied, v. 14 You denied the Holy and Righteous One, v. 15 You killed the Author of Life

Have you ever stopped to consider your role in the crucifixion of Christ?

If you would be free from sin, it's only because Jesus was willing to bear the penalty of that sin on the cross. It was your sin and my sin that held him there until it was accomplished

Mel Gibson – The Passion of the Christ

Here's the amazing thing... Jesus didn't merely allow himself to be punished for our sins. He willingly came and suffered in our place in order to make us his. His love for us and his desire to have us for his own led him to willingly and joyfully lay down his life.

Do you realize that each of us at our best are nothing more than lame beggars, and do you realize that our greatest need is for Christ in his grace to come to us and take us by the hand, and to hear him say rise to walk in newness of life with me.

What are you going through right now in your life? Have you considered that God may be using the difficult circumstances of your life to show you the love and power of Christ in deeper ways than would have otherwise been possible? And perhaps, God will use the most painful moments of your life, to help others come to faith in Jesus.

## **Conclusion**

Two questions

1. *Have you come to see yourself as nothing more than a lame beggar in need of nothing less than the love and grace of Jesus?*
2. *If you have, are you now looking for the needy lame beggars in your life? You and I might not have billions of dollars like, Mark Zuckerberg, but we have so much more.*