

Acts 3

1 We don't know how long after Pentecost this took place. It could have been as much as a couple of years or as soon as a few days. This is an example of them continuing in prayer. 2:42,46 Luke 24:53 The time of prayer was also the time of the afternoon sacrifice which would remind them that the Lamb of God had been slain. The other hours of prayer were 9AM – morning sacrifice, and noon. Exodus 29:39; Psalm 55:17 We often saw the fishing partners Peter and John together in the Gospel story and in Acts.

2 The tense of the verb tells us that this was this man's regular routine. People regularly saw him there. Giving to the poor was considered especially meaningful when it was done near the Temple. Acts 14:8 Josephus described what was probably the Beautiful Gate as being 75 feet high, the doors being 50 feet high, and the decoration was more magnificent than the other gates with thicker gold and silver plating. He said it took 20 men to close it.

3-6 Imagine this man who sat there daily hoping for gifts of mercy. Peter and John don't avoid looking at him like others did. They fixed their gaze on him and demanded his full attention. The cripple looked up expecting a gift. They had no money because the church had pooled their resources to supply the needs of everyone during this early teaching period. 2 Corinthians 6:10

Then, in the name of Jesus, they command him to walk. Other so-called healers would call on the name of their gods, like Asclepius. Peter called on the name (authority and attributes) of the risen Messiah. The healing power of Jesus flowed through them to the crippled man at the Temple gate.

There were many cripples in Jerusalem. How did they discern that it was God's will to heal this man? Acts 14:9; John 5:6 Sometimes we think of the early church as being a place of non-stop wonders done by everyone. You could get that impression from 2:43. But notice that the works are done by the Apostles or their close associates. The miracles are always to confirm their teaching and bring people into the kingdom. God still heals today for the same reasons.

7- 8 That took great faith on the Apostles part. They knew God wanted to heal that man. They acted on their conviction by pulling him to his crippled feet. In the process God responded to their faith and obedience and healed the man. Mark 9:27 They were doing what they had seen Jesus do. Not only could he walk, but he could jump around. The healing was instantaneous and complete. There was no question that God intervened not only in nerve restoration but in giving the man the balance and coordination to suddenly walk and jump. That is unheard of and utterly impossible without the intervention of God. Many of the

so-called miracles today are a far cry from verifiable. You can hardly count psychosomatic healings as equivalent to this kind of miracle.

9-11 It is hard for us to imagine the joy he must have felt. After longing all your life to walk like other people, to suddenly have strength in your ankles and feet must have been beyond words. Psalm 107:20-22 He was praising God. He knew it was the hand of God that had touched him. It was probably almost as thrilling for those watching to know that God was intervening in their immediate world. Luke 9:43 There was worship going on in the Temple in religious routine, but the praise of this beggar probably outshined all other worship that day. No one could deny that a miracle had taken place. 4:16

The people ran together in Solomon's porch. This was the double colonnaded (37.5 feet high of solid white marble) porch 300 yards in length and 45 foot in width one side. It had a cedar ceiling and ran the whole perimeter of the court of the Gentiles. It was the same place Jesus had preached on the Good Shepherd. John 10:23 Were they recalling Isaiah 35:6? The times of Messiah were to come with this type of signs. They recognized the beggar from seeing him daily at the gate. There he was, standing, clinging to the Apostles and more than likely with an ear-to-ear grin. God had provided the introduction for the sermon Peter was about to give, just as He had done in Acts 2. God has a way of getting our attention.