



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Acts of the Apostles

Chapter 3

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Introduction

- Ss. Peter and John go to the temple at the hour of prayer and heal a man who had been lame from his mother's womb (1-8)
- The people are astonished, and the apostles inform them that it was not by their own power they had healed the man, but through the power of Jesus of Nazareth, whom they had crucified (9-16)



Introduction

- St. Peter both excuses and reproves them, and exhorts them to repentance (17-21)
- St. Peter shows that in Jesus Christ the prophecy of Moses was fulfilled, and that all the prophets testified of Jesus and His salvation (22-24)
- He said also that in Him the covenant made with Abraham is fulfilled and that Christ came to bless them by turning them away from iniquities (25-26)

A Lame Man Healed (3: 1-10)



- Ss. Peter and John were very closely associated in the early work of the church
- The Jewish Christians still continued to observe many of the rites of Jewish worship in addition to preaching Christ to the multitudes in the temple courts
- The ninth hour is three o'clock pm, the hour of the evening sacrifice in which also the Lord died on the cross

A Lame Man Healed (3: 1-10)



- The foundation of the prayers of the hours is biblical
- Many miracles were done but the following one was recorded because it led to the first persecution
- The Beautiful gate is the one opening towards the Mount of Olives
- It was common to place the unfortunate at gates where they can get help from the worshippers

A Lame Man Healed (3: 1-10)



- He asked alms from them and the Holy Spirit worked in them to lead this man to faith
- St. Peter wished to engage his attention to see what was done to cure him to lead him to faith
- It was a constant custom for the worshippers to carry money to give to the treasury and the poor
- Although the money was at the feet of the apostles, they kept their Master's instruction not to carry silver or gold

A Lame Man Healed (3: 1-10)



- When they placed their trust in the Lord, not in money, the HS was working powerfully in them
- The Lord worked His miracles in no one's name like St. Peter because the power was His own
- He took him by hand to encourage him and strengthen his faith
- He was instructed to arise and walk: Showing faith in action
- He did and was healed in doing so

A Lame Man Healed (3: 1-10)



- His swiftness and eagerness are shown in leaping and praising the Lord
- Thanksgiving and worship should be our response to God's work in our life
- The people had often seen the lame beggar but now they saw him walking, leaping, and praising God but they did not know how he had been healed

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- This miracle made the man cling to Ss. Peter and John having a strong affection towards them
- Also a great multitude assembled in Solomon's Porch amazed at what happened to the beggar
- Solomon's Porch was a great covered portico of the temple built on the foundations that had been cared for by Solomon, so called by his name
- St. Peter seized every opportunity to bear witness to the Lord, moved by the Holy Spirit

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- Neither the might nor the merit of the cure are due to us, we are mere agents of God whom we preach
- The God of the patriarchs whom they all worshiped has glorified His Servant Jesus
- Servant means to serve the purpose of God in our salvation (Isaiah 42:1, 49:6, 52:12, 53:11)
- They delivered Him to Pilate and denied Him when Pilate would release Him but demanded a murderer instead of the Holy One and slew Him

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- The murderer's name was Barabbas (son of the father) who represent all of us who were worthy of death but the Lord died on our behalf and made us sons of the Father
- This one, God had raised and glorified Him
- All the twelve had seen the risen Lord with many others
- The resurrection of Christ was the main theme in the preaching of the Apostles
- It is His name not our own power

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- Killed the prince of life: glorious paradox
- The faith of Ss. Peter, John, and the lame man with the act of faith had made this man strong
- This faith came to us through His incarnation, salvation, and His work in us, for us, and with us
- St. Peter is giving them excuse to give them hope and lead them to repentance
- They slew Him because they were ignorant of His divinity

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- Their rulers were ignorant too because they blinded themselves by prejudice
- God had foreshown that Christ should suffer by the prophets (Isaiah 53: 1-12, Daniel 9:26)
- Now what happened was fulfillment of God's economy for our salvation
- The same command "repent" was given on Pentecost
- Repentance is not sorrow, but the fruit of sorrow (2Co 7:10)

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- And be converted: the command is to do some act, not to have something done to us
- If one is on the wrong road, is convicted of this, repents of it, the result is an act, to turn, and then to go the right way
- Baptism is not here expressly named, as in Ac 2:38, but was now understood of itself,
- The thought is suggested in the expression 'that your sins may be blotted out, by the baptism.'

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- When the times of refreshing shall come (the HS)
- The steps are, in Ac 2:38, Repentance, baptism, remission of sins, the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Here, the order is Repentance, to turn, the blotting out of sins, the seasons of refreshing
- The hope of the Jews was the Messiah. He had come, been rejected, and had returned to heaven
- His return will be prepared for by repentance, and turning to the Lord

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- The blotting out of sins, the seasons of refreshing, and the return of Christ are all, in some measure, dependent on their repentance and turning
- The times of restoration: The moral restoration of the world and the subjections of all the enemies under His feet as mentioned by the prophets
- Moses prophecy (De 18:15-19)
- Like me: In that he is the Mediator of the New Covenant as Moses was of the Old

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- We should hear Him as also the Father has said
- The Jews could be saved only by hearing Christ. Nor can we be saved otherwise
- The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy (Re 19:10)
- Samuel is named because he was the founder of the schools of the prophets
- The natural heirs of their promised blessings

Preaching In Solomon's Portico (3: 11-26)



- And of the covenant The covenant of Christ made with Abraham, in which the Savior was promised (Gen 12:3)
- This covenant was older than that of Sinai
- To you first. To Israel first in order, before the Gentiles, but St. Peter here recognizes the fact that the Gospel is also for other races
- Sent Him to bless you. Not in person, but by the preaching of Christ as the Savior from inequities



Conclusion

- When did Ss. Peter and John go up to the temple?
- What was the name of the gate of the temple where the lame man begged for alms?
- When Ss. Peter and John spoke to the lame man, what he expecting?
- As St. Peter prepared to heal the lame man, what did he say? What did St. Peter then do?



Conclusion

- Who saw the lame man walking in the temple? What was their reaction?
- Where did the crowd gather in the temple area?
- What did St. Peter first deny?
- What had God done through this miracle?
- Of what did St. Peter accuse of the crowd concerning Jesus?



Conclusion

- What did St. Peter then proclaim regarding Jesus? What evidence does he provide?
- To what does St. Peter attribute the healing of the lame man?
- What does St. Peter say regarding their guilt? What else about their actions?
- What two commands does St. Peter give to the people?
- What three blessings are given to those who obey?



Conclusion

- How long must Christ remain in heaven? As described by whom?
- What did Moses promise to the fathers? What did he also warn them?
- Who else foretold of these days?
- How did St. Peter describe his audience?
- What promise did God make to Abraham?
- How was God seeking to bless the people?