

ACTS CHAPTER #3

Verse 1 The hour of prayer There were three regular hours of prayer:

- 1.) The 3rd hour (9:00 A.M.) – the time of the morning offering and burning of incense.
- 2.) The 6th hour (12:00 noon).
- 3.) The 9th hour (3:00 P.M.) – the time of the evening offering and burning of incense.

Scriptures referring to times of sacrifice and prayer:

Ex 29:38-39 – Morning and evening sacrifice.

Ps 55:16-17 – Calling upon the Lord evening, morning and noon.

Dan 6:10 – Daniel prayed three times a day.

Acts 10:9 – Peter prayed at the 6th hour of the day.

Lk 1:10 – The people prayed while the priest burned incense.

Verse 2 Lame from his mother's womb The man was over 40 years old (Acts 4:22).

Temple Herod's Temple which was begun around 19 B.C.. The main structure was finished in 9 B.C., but the entire structure was not completed until A.D. 63, long after the death of Herod in 4 B.C.. Shortly after its completion the Romans destroyed it in A.D. 70. See the illustration of the temple attached.

Alms Anything given freely to relieve the needs of the poor.

Verse 5 Expecting to receive something The thing he must have been expecting, in light of Peter's statement in verse 6 about silver and gold, was money.

Verse 6 What I do have I give to you Remember that the apostles were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), and they were empowered to perform numerous kinds of miracles in addition to speaking in tongues (Acts 2:43).

In the name of Jesus Christ By the authority of Jesus Christ.

Verse 7 He raised him up The fact that Peter had to grab this man by the right hand and raise him up indicates that the man did not have any faith that he was healed, or was going to be. After all, he had not asked for healing, but for money.

Verse 8 Walking and leaping and praising God Once this man realized what had happened, he was ecstatic, and praised God for healing him.

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Verse 10 They were taking note of him All the people saw this man walking and praising God and knew that this had to be a miracle, because they knew he had been lame all his life. This is a good example of the stark contrast between real miracles of the New Testament and the false miracles of many today, that claim to have supernatural power from the Holy Spirit.

Wonder and amazement This was the effect that God intended for this event to have. When people saw a miracle it was supposed to amaze them and cause them to wonder what the ultimate reason for it was.

Verse 11 Portico of Solomon This part of the temple was also known as Solomon's Porch. According to Josephus, it was a colonnade constructed on the inner face of the enclosing wall of the outer court. It consisted of rows of stone columns twenty-seven feet high, with a roof of cedar resting on them and on the wall, so as to constitute a covered portico or porch, with its inner side open to the temple. On the eastern side of the court there were two rows of these columns, making that portico sixty feet deep and as long as the wall, which Josephus estimated at a furlong (660 feet). Its measurement today is over 1500 feet. These immense covered porches served as protection from the sun in the summer and the rain in the winter and could accommodate thousands of people.

Verse 12 When Peter saw this Just as in Acts chapter #2, Peter is now going to take advantage of this opportunity of the gathering of a crowd to preach the gospel.

Verse 13 Glorified His servant Jesus To glorify is to honor; to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged; to exalt to a glorious rank and condition. God glorified Jesus by placing Him on His throne in heaven (Acts 2:30, 33).

You delivered up and disowned See Lk 23:13-25.

Verse 14 Holy Set apart for God's use.

Righteous The state of him who is such as he ought to be; the condition acceptable to God; integrity, virtue, purity of life, uprightness, correctness in thinking, feeling and acting.

Verse 15 Prince of life The word prince means chief leader; one that takes the lead in anything and thus affords an example, a predecessor in a matter; the author. Jesus is the originator of life. He is the one who set the example for us and gives us life.

See Jn 4:10-14; 10:10; 14:6.

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Verse 15 Continued Peter's sermon to this point has been antithetical, that is, one of contrasts:

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| 1.) God glorified Jesus. | vs. | You delivered Him up. |
| 2.) Pilate decided to release Him. | vs. | You disowned Him. |
| 3.) He was holy and righteous. | vs. | You asked for a murderer. |
| 4.) God raised Him from the dead. | vs. | You killed Him. |

Verse 16 Faith in His name We have already seen that the lame man was not healed because of his faith in Christ. Instead, it was because of Peter's faith in Jesus that this man was able to walk again. Faith was not always necessary for the one that was being healed but it was for the one that was performing the miracle (Mt 17:14-20).

Perfect health This is said by scholars to be a medical term and is used only here in the New Testament.

Verse 17 You acted in ignorance They were ignorant of who Jesus really was when they put Him to death. However, this was no excuse. They were still held accountable for this sin. They should have known by the miracles, life, and teachings of Christ that He was the Son of God.

Verse 18 Christ should suffer Compare Acts 2:23 to this verse and also see Isa 53.

Verse 19 Return To cause to return, to bring back; to turn one's self about, turn back, to reform. Later in verse 26 of this chapter, Peter says that people were blessed when they turned from their wickedness. Baptism is what makes it possible for us to return to God, because after being baptized sin no longer separates us from God.

That your sins may be wiped away Just another way of saying their sins would be forgiven.

Times of refreshing This describes the feeling that one should have after baptism. Since he was once separated from God because of sin, a person should feel refreshed and rejuvenated after baptism since they can once again be in fellowship with God knowing that they have been forgiven.

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Verse 19 Continued Note the parallels between this verse and Acts 2:38:

<u>Acts 2:38</u>	<u>Acts 3:19</u>
Repent	Repent
Be baptized	Return
For forgiveness of sin	Sins wiped away
Gift of the Holy Spirit	Times of refreshing

Verse 20 That He may send Jesus Some think this is talking about the second coming of Christ. The context does not indicate that because the sending of Christ being talked about here is dependent on one's repenting and returning to God. When it is time for Christ to return He will come whether we have repented or not. On the other hand, we are told that if we have faith in Christ and obey Him, He will come and dwell with us.

Jn 14:23 If we keep His word, Jesus will abide with us.

2 Cor 13:23 Jesus Christ is in you, if you are in the faith.

2 Jn 9 The one who abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.

Verse 21 Whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things This is a difficult statement, but again, the context helps clarify its meaning. Note that this phrase is qualified by the following phrase, "which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time." The specific prophets and things they said, that he refers to in the rest of chapter three, are talking about when Jesus would come as the Messiah, and bring salvation, and not when He would come at the end of time. It is similar to the idea Christ was bringing out in Mk 1:15 when He said "the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand." Therefore, Jesus was in heaven until it was time to restore all things – to set up the spiritual kingdom, to turn people's hearts back to God, to provide for the remission of their sins that man might be reconciled to God. When this time came, God sent His Son (Gal 4:4-5).

Verse 22 Moses said This is from Deut 18:15. This would have a big impact on those in His audience that really respect what Moses said.

A prophet like me Like Moses, Jesus would be a prophet, a lawgiver and a deliverer.

Give heed in everything He says to you Moses understood that when this prophet came, the people would have to listen to Him. So to truly follow Moses they would have to leave the old covenant behind and enter into the new covenant in Christ.

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Verse 23 Every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed Peter quotes Moses from Deut 18:19 and shows that if they don't obey Christ they will be lost.

Verse 24 From Samuel From the early prophets of God's people, like Samuel, to the many prophets that would follow, God used them to announce the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom.

These days The days in which Peter was living. This was the time period in which the restoration of all things of verse 21 occurred.

Verse 25 Covenant The covenant, or promise, to Abraham which is a recurring theme throughout the book of Genesis. See Gen 12:1-3; 22:18.

Verse 26 For you first The first offer of salvation was made to the Jews. See Acts 1:8; 13:26, 46; Rom 1:16

Raised up This is not the idea of resurrection but God making it possible for someone to serve Him in a particular capacity at a particular time:

Judges 2:16 God raised up judges.

Amos 2:11 God raised up prophets.

Acts 13:22 God raised up David.