

A Lame Man Healed, Peter in the Temple, Healing by the Apostles

Notes for 18 Mar

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Read: [Acts 3](#), [Acts 5:12-16](#)

Peter the Evangelist and Healer

The Evangelist

What does Acts 3:1 inform us about Peter's attachment to Judaism and why did this enhance his suitability to be an evangelist in his day, in his geographic location?

The Miracle

The miraculous curing of the lame man had a major impact on the observers. (Filled with wonder and amazement....)

- What impact do you think this had on the audience when they heard Peter's message?
- If you read Acts 5:12-16, you discover that 'signs and wonders' played a major role in attracting new believers. Do you think the outcome of our evangelistic endeavours today is somewhat limited because of our inability to introduce the message through such dramatic, eye-catching events?
- If you saw a preacher perform equivalent miracles today as a precursor to presenting the gospel message, how would you react?

The Sermon

As presented in Acts, it is short, sharp and to the point.

- At the beginning of the sermon in verse 12, what is Peter attempting to establish with the crowd?
- Verse 13:

"The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors..."

Would you commence a sermon with this introductory statement to a British audience today?

"Whom you handed over and rejected."

Was Peter the John Knox of his day?

- Verse 14-15: He pulls no punches. Condemnatory!!! Is there a place for such a tone in today's pulpit?

- Verse 17: A note of conciliation perhaps? Do you agree?

- Verse 19:

"Repent therefore and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out...."

What are the conditions necessary for repentance? Why do you think the audience understood this language?

- Verse 21:

"who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through His prophets."

What does this statement mean?

- Verse 25:

"And in your descendents all families of the earth shall be blessed."

Has this, in the literal sense, taken place fully, partially or not at all? Is it figurative?

The Conclusion

What was the sermon attempting to establish?

The Challenge

We have touched in past weeks about how best to transmit our message to the people of our country today. Progressively, through my decades, I have found it increasingly difficult. Some have said that we should just leave it to the Spirit. Yet, successful evangelism appears to be aided by gifted men and women, coupled with contemporary strategies that may resonate with significant portions of our population. Perhaps we have a responsibility to give the Spirit a head start.

Discuss!