

Church – The Beginnings, Part 8

Healing at the Temple – Part 1

Acts 3:1 - 4:4 – Part 1 | 12/18/2016

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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Acts 3:1 - 4:4 (part 1)

Healing at the Temple – Part 1 – A Miracle led to the Gospel Presentation

- 1. The Early Church in Jerusalem was completely Jewish, yet Messianic**
They still went to the Temple for Prayer, Alms, etc. (see Acts 2:46-47)
They were Israeli, Hebrew, Jewish → Jesus is still Jewish/Israeli/Hebrew
9th hour of Prayer = 3pm
- 2. Miraculous Community of Faith – God Performing Miracles through the Apostles**
This is one Example of the Miraculous – it is always RELATED to the GOSPEL, always.
(compare Acts 2:43; 4:33; Acts 5:12-16; Galatians 3:1-5; Hebrews 2:1-4; John 14:12)
- 3. This man was born lame.** There is no national, public welfare/disability like we have today.
There were funds built into the National Tithes (yearly tithes) that should pay for some relief, but because of corruption, not much made it down to those in need. He was placed there to beg from a very early age. Jesus, more than likely passed him and he was not healed. The apostles passed him daily ... so why that day, that time? (see verses 1 thru 10)
Why does God seem to heal some and not others?
- 4. God's Miracle of healing this man who was lame from birth led to the Gospel being Presented.**
This miracle caused many to come and see this formerly lame man leaping for joy.
This is just like the miracle in Acts 2 caused a crowd to be drawn, which led to the Gospel presentation and 3000 saved on the day of Pentecost. So, it is here... same pattern of God's Powerful Miracles (irrefutable, undeniable miracles) that led to the Presentation of the Gospel and sinners being saved by Jesus Christ.
 - a. God's Intervention and Drawing Power is always First
 - b. then the Church must use all opportunities to Present the Gospel
 - c. and then God does the Saving → therefore, God get's the Credit for all of it.
- 5. The Gospel Presentation in the Israeli, Hebrew, Jewish context relies heavily upon Messianic Prophecy → (verse 18) Peter uses Old Testament Messianic Prophecy (as he did in Acts 2) to Prove that Jesus of Nazareth is the long-awaited Messiah – with His Mission to Forgive sins.**
Why did God bring the Gospel of Christ (the Good News of Israel's Messiah) to Israel First?
(see Acts 3:18-26 – also see Romans 1:16-17)
- 6. Peter calls the hearers of the Gospel to Repent and Turn (or Return) ... (vs 19)**
What did Peter bring up that the hearers were involved in (see Acts 3:12-17)
“Therefore REPENT and RETURN, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the LORD ...”
Why do sinners need to Repent? What does it mean to Repent? (ref.: Romans 2:4)
 - a. It is an act of the will – to change my mind about something (change of heart, as well) (the sinner is called upon to agree with God about who God is, about our sinful state, etc.)
 - b. Repentance is a part of becoming Humble (turn / return / u-turn) (see James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)
 - c. It is the First Part of Personally Trusting in Christ for Salvation (Acts 20:18-21)