

There's Just Something about that Name

Acts 3: 1-8

No doubt this is a familiar passage to most of us. You have probably heard it dealt with on several occasions, but its wonder and power continues to captivate us no matter how many times we hear it. I tried to imagine how Peter and John must've felt during this time in life. Not many days ago they had stood before an empty tomb where Jesus had been laid. Shortly after that encounter they decided to return to fishing, unsure of what their future held. There is little doubt there were more questions than answers during that difficult time in life.

We have little recorded information concerning the forty days that Jesus spent with the disciples between the resurrection and ascension, but these must've been days that transformed their lives. The doubt and fear is now gone and they are committed to carrying on even though Jesus has been taken from them.

This account takes place in the shadow of Pentecost. The Spirit has come and indwelt the believers and the church is alive and well. It is on this day that Peter and John encounter a man who has a great need. He was hopeless in himself, but there was power in the name of Jesus. At the name of Jesus his life was transformed. There is still power in the name of Jesus. It is a name that is above every name. It is the name that all must bow to and recognize as Lord. I want to look in on this encounter and examine the abiding [lessons](#) revealed as we consider: [There's Just Something About that Name](#).

I. The Confidence of the Apostles (1) – [Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.](#) This verse gives insight to the confidence of Peter and John. It reveals their attitude and commitment.

A. Their Ministry – We find that Peter and John [went up together](#) to the temple. This doesn't look like the men we read about in the Garden of Gethsemane. It isn't the same men who went fishing filled with doubt. These men have encountered a mighty move of God as the Spirit descended upon them. They have witnessed countless souls coming to the Lord in salvation. Their spiritual lives have gone from one extreme to the other. They have traveled from the valley of despair to the mountain of victory.

- It is often easy to get complacent and satisfied while on the mountain. Many had come to know Christ, but these men were not satisfied. There was a hunger in their hearts for more. I am thankful for all that the Lord has done, but we cannot live off of yesterday's blessings.

B. Their Unity – They went up [together](#). We no longer see them arguing about who will be the greatest. Peter seems comfortable standing alongside John instead of out front. They are working together for the Lord.

- Unity is essential if we are to be productive for the Lord. We cannot expect to reach our fullest potential if we are not united. The church needs more unity in our day. It isn't about who's out front or getting the most recognition, but working together for the glory of God. We'll never achieve that unity in ourselves, but through the power of His name we can!

C. Their Priority – Peter and John went to the temple [at the hour of prayer](#). The Jews had three times during the day set aside for prayer. They have made their way for prayer unto the Lord.

- This may not seem significant, but consider all they have experienced in recent days. It would've been easy for them to feel as if prayer was not necessary on a regular basis. It would've been easy for them to feel as if they had obtained a level of superiority and didn't need to bother with it, but they continued to seek the Lord and worship Him. They were well aware that the Lord had performed these mighty acts among them.

- There is a great lesson to be learned here. If we expect to see the Lord work among us in great and mighty ways, we must realize our dependence on Him. It is the Lord who has brought us here today. He is the source of our salvation and our strength. Were it not for His mercies and grace we would not have made it this far. We must never get to the place that we feel as if we no longer need the Lord. Without Him we can do nothing!

II. The Condition of the Afflicted (2-5) – Here we find a description of the lame man. He pictures those who are apart from the Lord. Notice:

A. He was Lame (2) – [And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;](#) We don't know how old the man was, but we know he had been lame all of his life. He had never known the joy of walking as others did. His life had been lived bound by his lameness.

- That is how each of us was. We were all born in sin, separated from God. Our sin nature was inherited and we were born crippled by sin. [For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. There is none righteous, no not one.](#) That sin prevents us from walking and fellowshiping with God. Our only hope was to be set free from the bondage and crippling effect of sin.

B. He was Loved (2) – This man had no way of providing or caring for himself. He was hopeless in his condition. He depended solely on others to care for him. [He was carried daily to the Beautiful gate that he might ask alms of those who entered the temple.](#) He may have been lame, but there were those who loved him enough to carry him to the gate.

- I'm glad for those who loved me even when I was bound in sin. I rejoice that I had a mother who carried me to the house of God when I was a child. I'm glad for those who prayed on my behalf that I might be saved. I thank God for a pastor who preached the Word to me and pointed me to Jesus! We need that kind of love for those who don't know the Lord. They can't get there in themselves; someone must get them to Jesus!

C. He was Looking (2-3) – [whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;](#) ^[3] [Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.](#) This poor, lame man was laid at the gate daily hoping to receive alms, or help from others. He lay there day after day searching for someone to have compassion on him. I can imagine as the crowds began to gather, he would look on them in great anticipation. Maybe as one came by that seemed to be wealthy, his heart would rise with hope. No doubt he was often disappointed as many walked right on by and never gave a passing glance. He was looking for help, but sadly many were likely not looking to him.

- Do you realize there is a lost world out there searching for something in their lives? They are looking for some means of peace. They are looking to find the solution for the longing in their soul. Many are looking to this world, but it will never bring the peace they so desperately desire. Many are looking to the pleasures of the flesh, but that too will only leave them empty.

- I wonder how we view those who are looking for peace and contentment. Do we even care that they are lost and undone before the Lord? Do we ever stop to think that apart from Christ, hell will be there home? Do we have the time to have compassion on a soul who needs salvation?

D. He was Lacking (4-5) – [And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.](#) ^[5] [And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.](#) He had been here many days before. This was nothing unusual. The man fully expected to receive a piece of money or some means of material help. He was not thinking of receiving healing; he was simply looking for a handout. This man's need was greater than a piece of money and yet he was not thinking toward that end. It is likely that he had resigned to his desperate condition and had no hope of ever being freed from his crippled state.

- Many in our day are in the same condition. They are looking to the world for a solution. Many have no idea their need goes beyond material wealth or physical healing. Few ever see the real need in their lives. Few ever recognize that their spiritual need is of grave importance. Most never see the need of salvation! There is no desire for spiritual things. We could gain the whole world, but if we died lost without Christ, what would it matter?

III. The Clarity of the Alteration (6-8) – The lame man’s life was about to be forever changed and it would be clear for all to see. Let’s look at the elements involved in his change.

A. The Truth (6) – *Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.* Peter was simply saying, “I don’t have what you want, but I do have what you need.” He didn’t need more coins in his cup; he needed Christ in his heart. Peter knew the truth of the gospel could set him free. This man needed the power of Jesus working in his life.

- Those around us think they know what they need, but in reality they don’t have a clue. We don’t have what they want, but we certainly have what they need. We have the truth of God’s Word. The world doesn’t need to be patted on the back and made feel good about their sinful ways. We have the awesome privilege and responsibility to tell a lost and dying world about the One who died for their redemption.

B. The Touch (7) – *And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.* I’m sure that he had been touched before, but never like this. As Peter took him by the right hand he was immediately filled with the power of God. The Lord’s power brought about healing and restoration to one who had never walked before. The touch of Christ freed him from the bondage he was in.

- Folks need to feel a touch from the Master’s hand. We can’t save them in ourselves. Neither our programs nor our preaching will be of any benefit without the touch of God. Man will never be saved until the Holy Spirit of God begins to work in his heart. But, once man feels that touch and responds to it, he can be set free!

C. The Transformation (8) – *And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.* Business began to pick up around the temple gate when the power of our Lord showed up. The lame man’s life was transformed in an instant. This transformation was twofold. It transformed:

➤ **His Walk** – *And he leaping up stood, and walked* One who had been carried to the temple gate crippled was now walking and leaping and praising the Lord. He walked as he had never done before.

▪ I can assure you, once you are set free from the bondage of sin, it will affect your walk. You will walk in ways you never imagined. You will find yourself in places you never thought possible. You will have a Companion to walk with you each step of the way.

➤ **His Worship** – *and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.* He immediately entered the temple praising God. There had been a change in his life and he couldn't help but worship the Lord. He had lain there all those years, but he had never worshiped like this.

▪ When you receive a touch from the Lord, it will transform your worship. You will see Jesus in a different light and you will have a compelling desire to worship Him. Maybe you've lain around the church for years, but you have never really worshiped. What you need is a good touch of the Lord!

Conclusion: Wouldn't you agree that there is just something about that Name? The name of Jesus has power to save from sin. It has the power to free from bondage and shame. Maybe you're like the lame man, crippled by sin. The Lord stands ready to touch you today if you'll only come to Him.