

AMITY BIBLE CHURCH

"Knowing God and Making Him Known"

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY NOTES ▪ October 15, 2017

Pastor Les Smith

SERIES: Preparing the Church to Leave the Building

SERMON: The Message Behind the Miracle - Part 2

Text: Acts 3:11-26

Central Message:

The miraculous healing of the lame man opened the door for reception of God's gracious offer of salvation in Christ; but, we must repent and turn in faith to Christ, or stand before Him in judgement.

General Observations

Peter introduced his message by deflecting attention away from himself and John, and he gave credit where credit was due...he essentially said that there is no miracle without the "Miracle Worker". Peter's preaching focused on three main issues: 1) Man's Problem: Congenital Sin 2) God's Provision: Unmerited Favor and 3) God's Prescription: Genuine Repentance.

Man's Problem: Congenital Sin (Acts 3:11-15)

Peter and John were going up to the temple to pray around the time of the evening sacrifice. As they arrived, a man with no use of his legs because of a congenital condition was being carried to his accustomed begging place. This man was a symbol of the condition of the nation of Israel. Peter's message of the gospel was offensive because it pointed directly to the culpability of the people. Peter accused them of being complicit in the death of Christ, God's Messiah. He told them that, through their actions, the Giver of Life had been slain.

The application for us is this: ALL mankind is guilty before God, whether we are aware of that guilt or not.

God's Provision: Unmerited Favor (Acts 3:16-18)

Even though the lame man was a symbol of the nation's condition, he was as guilty as all the rest. Just as he had a congenital birth defect that caused his lameness, he had a congenital birth defect that resulted in his guilt. By virtue of God's grace, His unmerited favor, the lame man was made whole from his lameness. In the same way, God grants His grace to all because we are all guilty before God. The application for us is this: God's grace is freely given to us as His provision for our sin problem.

God's Prescription: Genuine Repentance (Acts 3:17-26)

Peter had confronted the people with their guilt. This is the first essential part of the gospel message. If we have not confronted people with their guilt, we have not shared the gospel with them. The second and equally important aspect of the gospel message is God's unmerited favor. While we were still in our sinful condition, He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God by faith. God died for our sins and rose from the grave. Then, Peter shared the final aspect of the gospel message...the need for faith and repentance. But, just what is repentance? According to the Bible, repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of behavior. We must change our minds about who Christ is, and God will give us the faith to put our trust in His finished work on the cross. Repentance and faith are two sides of the same coin.

The lesson for us is this: God's offer of salvation must be met with a response of faith. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Repentance is an essential element of our turning to faith in Christ.