

Subject	Lessons from Acts Series	4402
		Acts 3
Title	7 Lessons from Acts 3	
Proposition	To study Acts 3.	
Objective	To consider seven lessons which Acts 2 helps me to consider and appreciate and apply in my own life.	

7 Lessons from Acts 3

Introduction:

1. In our study of our history book, we are seeking lessons from the 1st Century Church to help us to do our work in the 21st Century.
2. I would suggest that this is an important study and one that should be continuous.
3. There is a record of the great success that accompanied the beginning of the NT Church.
 - 1) It is found in the Book of Acts.
 - 2) It is an inspired record, accurate in every way.
 - 3) It is a record of great accomplishment.
 - 4) From Jerusalem, the 1st Century Church was able to spread to all of the world—
Colossians 1:23 ...the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;
 - 5) Their good success should be an encouragement to you and me to work hard to be like them in spreading the saving message.
4. Those 1st Century Christians can powerfully motivate us and teach us how to accomplish great things for the Lord in our day.
5. Let's determine to learn from them.

DISCUSSION: Acts 3 Helps me in that it—

- I. Shows HOW the power that came to the apostles was helpful in evangelizing (Acts 3.1-10).

Acts 3:2 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;

1. In chapter 2, we learn that the promise Jesus had made that the kingdom/church would be ushered in with POWER was fulfilled.
 - 1) Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
 - 2) The Holy Spirit came upon the apostles as recorded in Acts 2.1-4.
2. Just HOW would this POWER that the apostles had been blessed with be used in spreading the saving message?
 - 1) Well, this passage helps us to see HOW.
 - 2) Peter and John used the POWER to perform a notable miracle.

3. This was NOT the first miracle performed by the apostles—Acts 2:43 **And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.**
- 1) BUT, the circumstances of this demonstration of POWER gained MAXIMUM results.
 - 1- The **SUBJECT** of the miracle was well known to the people.
 - 1] Verse 2 tells us that this individual was brought to the same place DAILY.
 - 2] He would have been seen by thousands of passers-by on a daily basis.
 - 3] They would have understood that he was unable to walk on his own.
 - 2- The **TIMING** of the miracle would insure many God-fearing people would be present.
 - 1] This man was always placed in this highly visible place at a particular time each day.
 - 2] It was at the 9th hour, the HOUR OF PRAYER (v. 1).
 - 3] That was the time when the most people would be headed to the temple.
 - 3- The **AMAZEMENT** of the people provided Peter a great DOOR OF OPPORTUNITY for preaching Christ. *They would now be prepared to listen to the message Peter would preach.*
 - 2) Though we have no miraculous powers in the church today, we certainly need to keep our own eyes OPEN for opportunities to tell people about salvation through Jesus!
 - 1- It is a blessing we have that **they did not possess** to have the completed WRITTEN revelation from God.
 - 2- God has given us the task of evangelizing in our day.
 - 3- He has given us all that we need to accomplish the task—2 Peter 1:3 **According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**
4. The Lord provided the POWER and the apostles began using that power as they spread the gospel throughout Jerusalem.

Acts 3 Helps me in that it—

II. Shows a vital element of preaching/teaching in the 1st Century (3.11-26).

Please notice carefully the **POWERFUL EXALTATION of Christ** in Peter's sermon on Solomon's Portico of the Temple...

1. God has glorified His Son—Acts 3:13 **The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.**
2. He is identified as THE HOLY ONE (14).
3. He is THE JUST ONE (14).
4. He is THE PRINCE OF LIFE (15).

5. He is **THE PROPHET MOSES SPOKE OF (21-23)**.
6. He **MUST** be obeyed—Acts 3:23 *And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. A quotation from Deuteronomy 18.15ff.*
7. He was spoken of by all of the prophets (24).
8. He is the **BLESSING** promised to Abraham—Acts 3:25 *Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.*
9. Him God has raised from the dead to **BLESS US**—Acts 3:26 *Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.*
 - 1) This **POSITIVE** message must be a part of our own presentation of the gospel!
 - 2) There is definite **BLESSING** that accompanies the good news of salvation.
 - 3) That needs to be kept in our hearts as we go about our daily activities.
 - 4) Jesus was raised from the dead, making our resurrection possible—1 Corinthians 15:20 *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*
 - 5) We must be letting others know about how we have been blessed and how they can be likewise blessed.

Acts 3 Helps me in that it—

iii. Shows the Apostles respected and demonstrated the importance of AUTHORITY (6).

Acts 3:6 *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.*

1. This means that what Peter and John were about to do was being done in a way that was submissive to the authority of Christ.
2. So then, very early on in Luke's record of our history as the church there is emphasis upon **AUTHORITY**.
3. You and I have **NO AUTHORITY** to do anything not authorized by Christ in the written word.
4. When we consider how we will serve the Lord—our first and major concern **MUST BE**—is it **AUTHORIZED**.
 - 1) **Colossians 3:17** *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*
 - 2) Many claiming to follow Jesus have wandered away from this understanding.
 - 3) Some claim to have a **BETTER WAY** than the pattern set forth in the NT.
 - 4) Any time any human begins to think of himself/herself as superior to God, he and those who follow him will be moving away from fellowship with God— **Isaiah 55:9** *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

5) **2 John 1:9** Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

5. Peter & John, who were guided into all truth (John 16.13), well understood the vital importance of doing things in the name of Jesus Christ!

Acts 3 Helps me in that it—

IV. Demonstrates the nature of NT miracles (7).

Acts 3:7 **And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.**

1. **AND HE TOOK HIM BY THE RIGHT HAND, AND LIFTED HIM UP... Notice carefully that the beggar did NOT react by trying to rise up.**
 - 1) Rather, the apostle took him by the hand and raised him up.
 - 2) Following this, his strength came.
2. **It should be clear in reading these words that the faith of the lame man had NOTHING to do with the healing.**
 - 1) The lame man was absolutely passive until his strength came back.
 - 2) At that point, the miracle had already been accomplished.
 - 3) Sometimes so-called “faith healers” of our day use the excuse that the person needing to be healed did not have enough faith—when their attempts at a miracle fail.
3. **Notice that the word IMMEDIATELY is present in the account of this supernatural event.**
 - 1) That means there was absolutely NO DELAY in the performance of this miracle.
 - 2) This is quite different from some of the things CALLED miracles in our day.

Acts 3 Helps me in that it—

V. Provides an interesting PARALLEL verse with Acts 2.38 (3.19).

Acts 3:19 **Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;**

Acts 2:38 **Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

1. **The ASV has here—instead of BE CONVERTED—TURN AGAIN.**
 - 1) **BE CONVERTED** is passive, however, the original is not in the passive, but the **ACTIVE** voice.
 - 2) **The form of the word in the original is: Aorist, Active, Imperative, 2nd Person, Plural.**
2. **The idea of being passive is NOT conveyed by the original word.**
3. **The Greek term means TO TURN—to return to the path from which one has gone astray; and then, to turn away from sins, or to forsake them.**
 - 1) **It designates a change in CONDUCT.**
 - 2) **A change of conduct, however, must, have a BEGINNING.**
 - 1- **That beginning would be the first act of the better life.**
 - 2- **Previous to that, the person has NOT TURNED.**

- 3- The fact is that **ONE SINGLE ACT** was uniformly commanded of the penitent person.
- 4- The commands **TURN AGAIN (3.19)** is directly parallel with **BE BAPTIZED (2.38)**, not because the words are equivalent, but because the command to **TURN TO THE LORD** was uniformly obeyed by the specific act of baptism.
4. Here, **BE CONVERTED** or **TURN AGAIN** occupies the same location between repentance and having sins blotted out as **BE BAPTIZED** does between repentance and remission of sins in Acts 2.38.
 - 1) And so, **TO BE CONVERTED** (as it is used here), is a reference to baptism.
 - 2) A general term is used in 3.19, and the specific term is used in 2.38.

Acts 3 Helps me in that it—

VI. I learn something about **INSPIRATION (18-22)**.

Acts 3:18-22 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. (19) Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; (20) And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: (21) Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (22) For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

1. Peter affirms the inspiration of the OT prophets.
2. 2X in this context (18, 21), the word **MOUTH** is used **IN THE SINGULAR** to speak of the **PROPHETS** (plural).
 - 1) He seems to be saying that they all testified with a single voice.
 - 2) Which they did!
 - 3) How was it possible for these prophets separated by many years to accomplish this?
 - 4) It was possible because they were speaking by inspiration— 2 Timothy 3:16-17 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
3. Also, notice that Peter had no problem at all with attributing the quotation he made from Deuteronomy 18.15 to Moses.
 - 1) One of the main things many men “learn” when they go off to seminary is that Moses could not have written the first five books of the Bible.
 - 2) Here we can know for certain that Moses **DID WRITE** Deuteronomy 18.

VII. I learn about the TIMES OF RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS (21).

Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

1. Peter gives a simple explanation relative to the **TIMES OF RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS**.
 - 1) According to Peter, they have to do with what God's prophets wrote.
 - 2) When the things spoken of by the OT prophets have come to pass, or have been fulfilled, then Christ will return.
 - 3) Because of the false doctrine of premillennialism, it is **VITAL** that we understand what Peter meant here.
2. Premillennialists **MISUSE** this passage when they teach that Christ will return at the beginning of the **TIMES OF RESTORATION**.
 - 1) Peter said Christ would return at the END of the restoration of all things spoke by the prophets.
 - 2) All that the prophets foretold, both of the OT and the NT, will have been **FULFILLED** at the 2nd Coming of Jesus.
 - 3) His **FIRST** coming marked the beginning of the **TIMES OF RESTORATION**.
3. The first coming of Christ marked the beginning of the **TIMES OF RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS**.
 - 1) The 2nd Coming of Christ will mark the end of the restoration of all those things.
 - 2) Evidently, **IN SOME WAY**, the obedience of those Jews then, and of men and women today, will facilitate, or hasten, the coming to pass of those things foretold by the prophets of old.
 - 3) **BUT**, the 2nd Coming of Jesus is **NOT** contingent, nor dependent upon the full acceptance of Christ by the Jewish nation.
 - 4) That is simply **FALSE DOCTRINE** spread by the premillennialists.
 - 5) The Jews are **NOT** God's people today, as the premillennialists claim.
 - 6) Rather, the inspired Apostle Paul refers to the church, in this age, as **THE ISRAEL OF GOD** (Galatians 6.16).

Conclusion:

1. Lessons from our history book are important.
2. We must study this great history book which has been preserved for us down through the centuries of time.
3. How very blessed we are to learn lessons from this great book!