

## FINDING HELP AT THE HOUSE OF GOD

### ACTS 3

I believe a man can find help, for any problem or need, at the House of God. If he wants help it is available and if he's found it here once, he has reason to believe he can find it there again....

Peter and John are going together to God's House upon their arrival, they find at the Beautiful Gate, a man lame from his birth. This man wasn't looking for God. But God was looking for him. He was looking for something free, but I don't believe he was expecting to receive what he got. He was looking for something to sustain life, but I doubt what he had in mind was eternal life.

I'm glad that Peter and John looked beyond his temporal need and saw a need far greater. According to our text, by the Grace of God, this man was healed, and went into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. He found help. I want to mention several things I see that are involved in this great deliverance of man who had lived all his life in such a deplorable condition.

#### I. THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE DISCIPLES: vs. 1

**Note: They were going to the Temple at the hour of prayer.**

1 Cor. 4:2 <sup>2</sup>Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

#### A. Faithful To Christ: **illustrate:** Paul 2 Tim. 4:7

<sup>7</sup>I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

Acts 21:13 <sup>13</sup>Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

B. Faithful To Church: vs. 1

**Note: They were going to church, at the appointed time.**

Heb. 10:25 <sup>25</sup>Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

C. Faithful To Our Christian Duties: vs. 1

1. Prayer: Luke 18:1 <sup>1</sup>And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

II. THE FAMILY OF THE LAME MAN: vs. 2 (They)

**Note: He had no say over the matter:** (The term “from his mother’s womb”, and this implies, those of his household.

**Note: His mother and father said, you’re going to Church and you’re going where I take you.**

A. Their Charity: vs.2 (They carried him daily)

B. Their Commitment: (They did this daily)

1. Carried him there daily, then brought him home.

C. Their Confidence: (Apparently they believed this was the place he would most likely find help)

III. THE FAITH OF THE LAME MAN: vs. 3-7 (Regardless

whether it’s a sinner or a child of God, if we are to find help, there must be a measure of faith: Heb. 11:6 <sup>6</sup>But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

A. Faith To Call: vs. 3 (He asked) Rom. 10:13 <sup>3</sup>For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

B. Faith In Christ: (He was lifted by Peter but notice vs. 16) <sup>16</sup>And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. (Complete, Whole)

#### IV. THE FAREWELL TO HIS PROBLEM:

A. His Cure: vs. 7 (He received strength to walk)

B. His Constitution: (His nature, make up, disposition)  
Vs. 7

1. Walking
2. Leaping
3. Praising God

C. His Confirmation: (That which confirms conversion)

1. He stood with the preachers: vs. 11 <sup>11</sup>And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John,...

#### V. THE FAME THAT WAS SPREAD ABROAD: vs. 11 (all the people ran together)

A. His Conversion Brought Curiosity:

B. His Conversion Was Contagious:

## GETTING USED TO THE DARK

2 KINGS 2:19-22

I want to preach this morning on the second miracle of the Prophet Elisha. He's already received a double portion of the Spirit of Elijah and used that power to dry up, and to cross the Jordan River. Elijah's ministry was over and his crossing of the Jordan was a departure from Canaan, which is a type of a Spirit Filled Life in Christ.

After Elijah's translation, Elisha tarries at Jericho with the young prophets. Please keep in mind, that Jericho had been destroyed and cursed by Joshua when he began to conquer the land, but had been rebuilt by Hiel the Bethelite in 1 Kings 16:34. Apparently the curse remained because the water there was naught and the ground barren.

The name Jericho means "A Fragrant Place" and apparently it still lived up to it's name because the men of the city believed the situation there to be pleasant. Can you imagine people believing a city is pleasant when the water there, they're drinking water brings death and the ground is barren, desolate, and fruitless.

They found themselves...

I. SETTLED DOWN UNDER A CURSE: **illustrate: America Today.** (The water was naught=Death) Alfred Edersheim 1825-1869 "They is scarcely a pleasure party, however worldly, nor design or undertaking however far from God, for which the presence of some religious leader is not sought, when straightway all seems to become sanctified" **illustrate: Billy Graham**

A. Blinded By Satan: 2 Cor. 4:3&4 <sup>3</sup>But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: <sup>4</sup>In whom

the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

1. Conviction Rejected:

2. Closed Their Eyes To Truth:

2 Thes 2:11&12 <sup>11</sup>And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: <sup>12</sup>That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

3. Cling To A False Peace: **illustrate:**  
***Anti-Christ in Revelation 6:2***

<sup>2</sup>And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

a. In verse Two He Promises Peace, but in verse Four He Takes It Away

B. Bitter In Spirit: **illustrate: *Esau*** Heb. 12:16

<sup>16</sup>Lest there *be* any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

Heb. 12:15 <sup>15</sup>Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up **trouble you**, and thereby many be defiled;

1. He Sought Repentance And Could Not Find It

2. He Sought It To Late

3. He Lived His Life In Bitter In Spirit And Under God's Curse

C. Balk At The Sacrifice: **illustrate: Cain**

Gen. 4:5 <sup>5</sup>But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and **his countenance fell.**

Gen. 4:7 <sup>7</sup>If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door....

1. Able Brought The Right Sacrifice And Was Accepted

2. Cain Brought The Work Of His Hands And Was Refused

3. He Balked At The Sacrifice

II. SATISFIED WITH A BARREN LIFE: (The Ground Was Barren)

A. The Spiritual Womb Is Barren: (Strong's Def. To Miscarry)

1. Hannah Was Barren And Was Provoked By Her Adversary:

a. Her Patience, Prayer, And Pledge Brought Children

2. Elisabeth Was Barren And Was Promised A John

3. Rachael Was Stricken Barren Because She Scorned The Praises Of God

**illustrate: John Knox: "Give Me Children Or I Die"**

Isa. 66:8 "...for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."

## B. The Storehouse Is Barren:

1. No Power
2. No Prayer
3. No Praise
4. No Preaching

## III. SALT HAD LOST IT'S SAVOUR: (It Took Salt To Cure The Water And Ground)

Matt. 5:13 <sup>13</sup>Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

A. Salt In Our Speech: Col. 4:6 <sup>6</sup>Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

## B. Salt In Self: Mark 9:50

### 1. No Fountain Can Send Forth Both Salt Water And Fresh Water: James 3:12

- a. Provides Flavor:
- b. Prevents Decay

## IV. Saviour Showed Mercy:

A. He Salted The Water (The Word Of God)

B. He Poured It Out Of A New Vessel

C. They Drink From A New Fountain

JESUS: GOD'S SALT SHAKER

## GOD'S DIVINE INVITATION

GEN. 7:1 – ISA. 1:18 – LUKE 14:16-24

Webster defines the word invitation as: “The calling or requesting of a persons company to visit, to dine, or to accompany him to any place.”

1. An Invitation Is Either Accepted or Rejected:

***illustrate: try to make it***

2. Christ's Invitation Is Personal; it comes from Him directly to the sinner:

A. John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him **come unto me**, and drink. <sup>38</sup> He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

B. Mat 11:28 **Come unto me**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

C. Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, **Come**. And let him that heareth say, **Come**. And let him that is athirst **come**. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

I. NOAH'S INVITATION OF DELIVERANCE:

Genesis 7:1 - <sup>1</sup>And the LORD said unto Noah, Come **thou and all thy house** into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.

A. The Ark A Type Of Christ:

1. The Pitch in 6:14 means: *to ransom, redemption price, covered in.*



- a. Delivered From Destruction: 6:13 - <sup>13</sup>And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.
- b. Delivered From Debauchery: (Corruption of fidelity) (Seduction of duty or allegiance) 6:11, 12 - <sup>11</sup>The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted **his** way upon the earth.
 

The Lord? ←
- c. Delivered From Death: 6:17 - <sup>17</sup>And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life, from under heaven; *and* every thing that *is* in the earth shall die.

## II. ISRAEL'S INVITATION TO DEPART FROM SIN:

Isaiah 1:18-20 - <sup>18</sup>Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. <sup>19</sup>If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: <sup>20</sup>But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.

### A. Brought To A Cross-Road:

#### 1. Blessing or a Curse:

- a. Blessing came from a willing heart of obedience: (They could eat the good of the land)
- b. Curse came from deliberate rebellion

- B. Blessing Brought Cleansing: (verses 2,3,4,5,6)  
(Forgiveness)
- C. Bound By Divine Confirmation: (For the mouth of  
the Lord hath spoken it:)

### III. A CERTAIN MAN'S INVITATION TO COME & DINE:

Luke 14:16,17 - <sup>16</sup>Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: <sup>17</sup>And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, **Come**; for all things are now ready.

A. Their Excuses: verse 18 - <sup>18</sup>And they all with one *consent* began to make excuse.

- 1. Bought Ground
- 2. Bought Oxen
- 3. Married a Wife

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| He bought the ground to graze the oxen on and his wife to take care of it. |
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a. Their excuses all agreed: (All with one consent)

***Definition of consent: we generally use this word in cases where power rights and claims are concerned***

b. Their excuses all offended the master:  
vs. 21 "Then the master of the house being angry"

c. In their excuses they were excused:  
vs. 24 " For I say unto you, that none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."