

I. THE LAME MAN'S AFFLICTION

- A. Chapter 2: Over 3000 people were saved and baptized into church membership
 - 1. This would have been noticed by most in Jerusalem
 - a. Peter preached and people from 16 nations heard in their tongue
 - b. Remember – there were far more than 3000 people at Pentecost
 - c. They didn't have cable news or the Internet, but word got around
 - 2. What did they preach? Very simple: The Gospel
 - a. That is the message – not wealth, not health, not even fellowship
 - i. There are churches that major on those things
 - ii. "I go to church to network and get business opportunities"
 - iii. "Our church is like one big party, we have so much fun"
 - iv. "Come to our church, our praise band is the best in town"
 - b. There is a REASON for our church to exist!
 - c. And that reason is found in Acts 1:8
 - i. To spread the Gospel (the Death, Burial, and Resurrection)
 - ii. To see people Saved, Baptized and Discipled
 - iii. Ever notice how those things seem to line up?
 - 3. The greatest miracle of Chapter 2
 - a. Not the sudden use of known languages (although that's amazing)
 - b. Not the Holy Spirit filling the house (although that's part of it)
 - c. The greatest miracle of Chapter 2 is also happened to me
 - i. The greatest miracle is Salvation of a wretched sinner
 - ii. "ROMANS 5:6-9 – "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. (7) For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. (8) But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
 - iii. While we were unlovely, He LOVED us
 - iv. While we were unworthy, He VALUED us
 - v. While we were unable, He PAID for us
- B. Peter and John go up to the Temple
 - 1. They go out two-by-two, together in good fellowship
 - a. This is the very picture of strength
 - b. Grade 8 bolts – sometimes you don't want the hardest metal
 - c. Think about these two personalities
 - i. Peter, the "hard charger" who shoots from the hip
 - ii. John, the disciple Jesus loved, who never even uses his own name in the Gospel of John

- iii. Here are two men, strength and resilience, better together
 - 2. They go out at the ninth hour (vs. 1) the Bible calls that the hour of prayer
 - a. A time when many of the people, maybe most of the people
 - i. Joined together in prayer
 - ii. Maybe many were only doing it religiously
 - iii. Wouldn't it be a wonder in our nation if we did the same?
 - b. They were going back to the well
 - i. I don't know what their plan was for this visit...
 - ii. They had seen God work in amazing ways in Ch. 2
 - iii. And they wanted to see Him do more
 - 3. And that's when they met the Lame Man
- C. This lame man was afflicted from his mother's womb, the Bible says
 - 1. He could not walk, had to be CARRIED to the temple DAILY
 - a. They laid him at the Gate named Beautiful to ask alms
 - b. To beg for money, since he could not walk
 - c. Be careful to whom you "give money"
 - d. 2 THESS. 3:10 – "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."
 - 2. He was utterly unable to help himself
 - a. What a hopeless condition to live in, heartbreaking to think about
 - b. No rescue, no chance at a normal life
 - c. No expected medical breakthroughs
 - 3. Let us see what changed his Affliction
 - a. What grabbed his Attention
 - b. What brought him Alleviation
 - c. And what caused amazement to his Audience
 - d. And finally we will see his story in Application to us

II. THE LAME MAN'S ATTENTION

- A. He was waiting there every day to catch those who would pass by (vs. 3)
 - 1. He would beg for alms, for help, for a little money or a little food
 - 2. People got used to him being there (vs. 10a)
 - 3. Let us never be heartless to those truly in need
 - a. MATT. 26:11 – "For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always."
 - b. But also, let us remember that man's GREATEST need is Salvation
 - c. A little bit of money will be gone in a day, it is temporary
 - d. No amount of money can buy ETERNITY in Heaven
- B. He saw Peter and John about to go into the Temple
 - 1. Seem like a silly reminder, but people NOTICE you going to church
 - a. That family puts on nice clothes and leaves out each Sunday
 - b. They KNOW where you're going, and they watch

- c. Don't think they don't
 - 2. Peter and John were doing what God told them to do
 - a. It was the hour of prayer, and they were going to the Temple
 - b. When it's time for church, get yourself together and just go
 - 3. God uses HUMAN instruments to carry out His work
 - a. And God will use us too if we are obedient to Him
 - b. Which means to submit to His will for our lives (the BEST life)
 - c. Which also means being the right place at the right time
 - i. That's true for church members at church time (unless)
 - ii. That's true for missionaries on the mission's field!
 - iii. You can never go wrong going where God sends you
- C. Peter and John SAW him – they didn't walk on by
 - 1. This man was not invisible to them, his true need did not go unnoticed
 - a. Peter fastened his eyes on him (vs. 4)
 - b. They got his attention (LOOK upon us! Listen to the Gospel!)
 - c. They didn't let the chance go by
 - 2. They didn't help him for a day, they would help him FOREVER
 - 3. And it wasn't about money!

III. THE LAME MAN'S ALLEVIATION

- A. Silver and Gold have I none
 - 1. Christianity is not the path to success and great riches
 - a. Paul was beaten, stoned, jailed, whipped, and threatened
 - b. Everywhere he went, and yet God GREATLY used him
 - 2. The lie of the wealth and prosperity "gospel" is false on its face
 - 3. But we do have this promise, God takes care of His own!
 - 4. PSA. 37:25 – "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."
- B. This is the very picture of Salvation
 - 1. Look upon us (vs. 4)
 - a. Salvation is LIFE for a LOOK
 - b. JOHN 3:14-15 – "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: (15) That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."
 - c. Who WOULD REFUSE to look and live?
 - 2. Such as I have give I thee (vs. 6b)
 - a. Salvation is the gift of God (Peter didn't earn it)
 - b. EPH. 2:8-9 – "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast."
 - c. Money is not the best gift – JESUS is!
 - 3. In the name of Jesus, rise up and walk (vs. 6c)

- a. Salvation is in a person not a process
 - b. ACTS 4:12 – “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
 - 4. Peter lifted him up (vs. 7)
 - a. This is a hand up not a hand out – Salvation CHANGES lives
 - b. God gives His mercy and grace to the lost
- C. Immediately he received strength (vs. 7)
 - 1. Salvation is INSTANTANEOUS – no one waits until death to “find out”
 - a. You can KNOW that you are saved – right now!
 - b. 1 JOHN 5:13 – “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”
 - 2. JOHN 5:24 – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”
 - 3. The change was visible and caused people to wonder
 - a. Salvation should be that way in a person’s life
 - b. There were many changes in me – you wouldn’t recognize me

IV. THE LAME MAN’S AUDIENCE

- A. He leapt up and walked and stood – he was a NEW CREATURE!
 - 1. He praised God – not Peter and John
 - 2. And all the people saw him (vs. 9) He was not ashamed!
 - 3. They all knew something miraculous had happened – it was obvious
- B. ROM. 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

V. THE LAME MAN’S APPLICATION

- A. He was afflicted from our mother’s womb – We are sin sick from birth
 - 1. PSA. 51:5 – “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”
 - 2. PSA. 58:3 – “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.”
- B. He was carried - We are helpless to save ourselves
 - 1. TITUS 3:5 – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”
- C. He was a beggar – We are at the complete mercy of God
- D. Be Saved Today!