

# **Book of Acts – Session Two: Chapters 3 and 4**

## **Book of Acts Overview Chapters 1- 4**

- Chapter 1
  - Ascension and Promise of the Father
  - Appointment of Matthias
- Chapter 2
  - Day of Pentecost
  - Peter's 1<sup>st</sup> Sermon
- Chapter 3
  - Lame man healed.
  - Peter's 2nd Sermon
- Chapter 4
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Persecution
  - Peter's address to the Sanhedrin

## **Chapter Three**

### **VS. 1- 11      Healing the Lame Man**

- Lame from birth
- Beggin Alms – how he gleaned a living (not asking for healing).
- Gold and Silver or Healing?
- Jesus Christ of Nazareth (in my name you will...). This title is used seven times in Acts.
- A miracle of physical healing occurs – bones healed, muscles strengthened, undeniable.
- Note: Jesus healed a lame man in John 5.
- This is a continuation of the ministry of Jesus (John 4:12)
- Fulfilment of the promise of Acts 1:8 – you will receive power – Holy Spirit power.
- Miracle was in the power and authority of the Name of Jesus (Matthew 28:18 -authority)
- They did not give a “handout” (alms) but healing that cancelled out the disability.
- What was the result? – walking and leaping and praising God – people amazed, wondered.

### **VS 12-16      Peter Second Sermon**

- Very Jewish – in the temple (note: the disciples still went to the temple to pray)
- This miracle has nothing to do with us (Peter and John deflect to Jesus)
- The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is glorifying His Son, Jesus.
- Whom you delivered up (crucified)
- Who you denied before Pilate (which was predetermined by God beforehand)
- You chose a murderer and Killed the Prince of Peace.
- But God raised Him from the dead. (every sermon of Peter and Paul reference this)
- We are His witnesses (Acts 1:8 – and you shall be my witnesses...).
- Through the Name of Jesus is this man made whole

- You acted in ignorance (manslaughter vs premeditated murder; city of refuge; Num 35)
- This was foretold by the prophets.
- Repent and be converted and let your sins be blotted out.
- The restitution of all things – Year of Jubilee
  - Leviticus 25: 8-55; 27: 16-25 and Numbers 36:4
  - Every fifty years
  - Never achieved by Israel.
  - All debts cancelled.
  - All slaves set free.
  - All lands restored to original owners.
  - All the families reunited.
- A prophet like Moses will rise among you.
- Whoever does not “listen” to this prophet will be destroyed.
- As children of Abraham, son of the covenant, God sent Jesus to you first.
- This is a blessing so turn away from your sins.

## **Chapter Four**

### **VS 1- 4**

- Priest, Captain of the Temple Guard, and the Sadducees come.
- Put them in prison for the night.
- The Sadducees did not want them instructing the people or preaching the resurrection.
- Pharisees – legalists, believed the supernatural, opposed Jesus, sought to kill Him.
  - Jesus had many encounters with this group and challenged their understanding of the law of Moses.
  - Ultimately, they rejected Jesus’ message and ministry.
  - Some were converted (Nicodemus)
- Sadducees – liberal, no supernatural, rejected the resurrection.
  - They were the political power brokers of the day.
  - Focused on ethics vs. theology.
  - They hated the Pharisees.
  - We have no record of any Sadducee ever being converted to Christ.
- Five thousand souls were added to the church through this miracle and sermon!

### **VS 5-12 Peter’s Declaration**

- Everybody shows up for this “inquiry.”
- Annas and Caiphas
  - Annas was the rightful High Priest (descendent of Aaron) was deposed by Rome.
  - Caiphas – was political appointee of Rome – not descendant of Aaron).
- Both condemned Jesus to die.
- By what power or name have you done this?
- The Name of Jesus – whom you crucified; whom God raised from the dead.

- The stone rejected by the builders is not the cornerstone – Ps 118; Matt 16:18
- Messianic reference.
- Jesus is the rock (1 Corinthians 10:4)
- VERSE 12 – Peter’s Declaration – should memorize this verse.

### **VS 13 – 18    The Sanhedrin’s Persecution**

- Saw boldness of Peter – this is the same group that gave Jesus over to Pilate.
- Noted they were not educated or learned men.
- Saw they had been with Jesus.
- Saw the healed man standing with them.
- Could not deny the miracle.
- Must stop this from going further.
- Threats and demands – speak and teach no further in the Name of Jesus.

### **VS 19 – 20**

- Peter’s reply: NO CAN DO!
- We are going to do what God tells us to do, not you.

### **VS 21- 31    The Churches Resolve**

- Psalm 2
  - Vs 1-3            Voice of the Nations
  - Vs 4-6            Voice of the Father
  - Vs 7-9            Voice of the Son
  - Vs 10-12        Voice of the Spirit
- Philippians 2:5-11
- The Rod of Iron
  - Rev 2:27
  - Rev 12:5
  - Rev 19:10-12
- Give us boldness to speak your Word.
- Give us signs and wonders through the name of Jesus.
- And they were filled with the Holy Spirit (again).

### **VS 31 – 38    Communal Life**

- Unity – one heart and soul.
- Sharing – all things in common.
- Great power giving “witness” to the resurrection.
- Selling of properties to meet needs.
- Barnabas is introduced.