

# Sermon Handout

## The Lame Shall Leap

### Acts 3:1-10

- I. Healing the Lame – a sign of the “Day of the Lord”** *See Is 35:6*
- a. One of Jesus’ pointers regarding his identity (to John the Baptist)  
Mt 11:5; Lk 7:22 (the mention in Luke’s first volume is significant)
  - b. An example of the “wonders and signs” mentioned in 2:43 (*cf.* 2:19)
  - c. Peter & John emulate the action of Jesus Mk 2:11  
Note Peter’s formula: “in the name of Jesus . . . arise and walk” v. 6
  - d. The pairing of Peter & John
    - i. The only two Apostles with any prominence in Acts 1-12
    - ii. They are two of the three “Inner Circle” Apostles  
James is only mentioned in 1:13; 12:2 (his murder by Herod)
    - iii. Peter & John in the Gospels Lk 5:10; Jn 20:2; Jn 21:20
- II. The Miracle (Sign) Itself**
- a. The man was lame from birth (a known individual) v. 2
    - i. There was no possibility of fraud vv. 2, 10; 4:16
    - ii. At the time of his healing he was more than 40 years old 4:22
  - b. “Silver & gold have I none” v. 6
    - i. The Apostles did have access to money 2:45 *cf.* 4:34-35
    - ii. “Money is not the gift we offer” but something better
    - iii. Contrast the situation with Naaman in II Kg 5
  - c. “And he took him by the hand” – personal contact *cf.* Mt 8:3
- III. The Purpose of the Miracle** (and its lessons)
- a. A sign to assert the continuing authority of Jesus 1:8; 2:43
  - b. Illustrates the conflict between Christians & unrepentant Jewish leaders
    - i. Sadducees, priests, captain of the temple guard 4:1
    - ii. Their message: teaching the resurrection must stop! 4:2, 18
  - c. The same dynamic occurs with Paul & Barnabas Acts 14:8-20
  - d. The two healings of lame men (ch 3 & 14) confirm the prophecy of Isaiah
  - e. The healings accredit Jesus and the preaching of the gospel vv. 21-23
    - i. They affirm salvation through Christ *cf.* Lk 5:18-26
    - ii. They validate the transition from old Israel to New Israel Mt 21:43, 45
  - f. Miraculous healings are not for the personal gratification of individuals
  - g. Miraculous events are not intended to continue beyond the Apostolic Age
  - h. Faith, hope, love are the continuing signs of redemption I Cor 13:8-13; Heb 11:1