Bible Workshop: Acts of the Apostles 3

Outline

vv. 1-6	Peter and John go to the temple at the ninth hour
vv. 7-11	Healing of the impotent man
vv. 12-18	Peter reveals the source of the miracle
vv. 19-26	Revelation of God's power demands action

Discussion points

1. Where in the Gospels have we seen Peter and John united in a common task? Do you think they worked well together? And why?
2. Do you think they were going up to the temple to pray? And if so, why to the temple?
3. What time of day is the ninth hour? Where else do we find this hour identified in the Scriptures, and under what circumstances?
4. How many years do you think this man had been carried to the Beautiful Gate of the temple (v. 2)? Who do you think carried him there? Why would they take him to this spot?
5. Consider all the factors in this miracle that make it so dramatic (vv. 2-10). Go over and outline as many details as you can.
6. What is Peter referring to that the people did in ignorance (v. 17)? Does this excuse their actions?
7. Look up the whole quotation Peter cites in verses 22,23. Do you think this prophecy applied exclusively to this generation?

Details

1. This is the third time that Peter has assumed the role of leader and addressed the people (v. 12). Find the other two, and notice the change in Peter from the end of the Gospels.
2. What does it mean to repent and be converted (v. 19)? Look at the meaning of the Greek words used here, and find other occurrences in the New Testament.
3. How many Old Testament references can you find that speak of the "restitution" of all things (vv. 21,24)? Check the marginal references, and look in Acts 1:6.

Tasks

1. Notice the disciples' reliance on prayer, as we saw it in chapter 1. Find examples in the Gospels where Jesus instructs them in prayer. What can we learn from this?
2. Note the direct eye-contact the apostles make with the man (v. 4). The same Greek word used here occurs in chapter 1 and again in this chapter. Find them and note the scrutiny.
3. Look at the arrest of Jesus and his trial before Pilate in the Gospel records, and note how many times Pilate tried to release him (v. 13). What does this tell us about Pilate? And what lessons can we learn?

Information

The healing of this impotent man was not a gradual movement of someone who had never walked, but a miraculous transformation of atrophied muscles and seized joints into ones of amazing strength and mobility.

Take-home point

The bold, blunt statements by Peter, and his call for action by those who heard his message, should be a model for our witness. Let us be more resolute in word and deed as we set forth the glorious hope that has been extended to us.

David Lawrence

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