

Acts 3:11 Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.

3:12 So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

3:13 "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go.

3:14 "But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you,

3:15 "and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.

3:16 "And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

3:17 "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.

3:18 "But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.

3:19 "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

3:20 "and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

[From today's sermon]

"While he was still with Peter and John."

The heart of the man who had been healed at the Beautiful Gate was fixed on Peter and John, who were the instruments of God's work.

In response to the curious glances of the people, Peter said,

"People of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why do you stare at us as though by our own power or piety we had made this man walk?"

We are amazed at Peter's boldness in standing at the Beautiful Gate, staring intently at the man, and saying, "I will give you what I have. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk." What if nothing had happened? Wouldn't we have been ashamed? However, Peter clearly knew what he had. It was not his own strength or faith, nor his own work, but "the name of Jesus, and the faith that comes from believing in Him, that gives this man strength."

"God fulfilled all the prophecies spoken through the mouths of all the prophets, foretelling the sufferings of Christ... Repent, therefore, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped

away.”

The salvation brought by the coming of Jesus had been foretold long ago. It was for the purpose of wiping away our sins and enabling us to change our hearts and start anew. Here is wonderful news.

Good morning, everyone. It has been a hot week, with occasional heavy showers like thunderstorms. I hope you are all well and safe.

Today, I hope you will learn from Peter's sermon and his words of faith, and that you will be filled with his lively spirit.

This is the continuation of the story of a man who was healed at the Beautiful Gate.

3:6 Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk.”

3:7 Taking him by the right hand, he raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles became strong.

3:8 He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk. And walking around and leaping for joy, he entered the temple with them.

3:9 All the people saw him walking around and praising God,

3:10 and they recognized him as the one who had been sitting at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. They were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

3:11 While he was still with Peter and John, all the people were amazed and rushed together to the portico called Solomon's Colonnade.

3:12 When Peter saw this, he addressed the people, “Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you stare at us as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?

”As he was still with Peter and John.”

The healed man had been with Peter the whole time. He seemed unable to tear himself away from him.

In response to the curious stares of the crowd, Peter said,

“People of Israel, why are you so amazed at this? Why do you stare at us as if we had made this man walk by our own power or by our own devotion?”

We were standing at the Beautiful Gate, staring at the man, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk.” Were we not amazed by Peter's boldness? What if nothing had happened? Would we not have been ashamed? However, Peter clearly knew what he had. It was not his own strength or faith, nor his own work, but “the name of Jesus, and the faith that comes from believing in Him, that gives this man strength.”

We too want to help others, but we cannot do great works like those in the Bible. We may think that we are completely different from those people. However, Peter also said that he had no silver or gold, and that he could not make that man walk by his own strength or faith. He was just like us today. No, we may be richer and more blessed than he was. But he knew clearly what he had, and he bet on it. That was the name of “Jesus of Nazareth.”

The name of Jesus of Nazareth... The one called Jesus of the small village of Nazareth. This name tells us how humble Jesus was and how He walked His path.

Philippians

2:1 Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any participation in the fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and sympathy,

2:2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

2:4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

2:5 In your relationships with one another, live in the same spirit of Christ Jesus.

2:6 Though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

2:7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

2:8 he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

2:9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2:12 Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, work all the more with fear and trembling to complete your

salvation.

2:13 For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The letter to the Philippians repeatedly tells us to rejoice, but when we think of Jesus, who is humble and serves and saves us, we can rejoice in any situation. We too have received the name of Jesus, who serves, teaches, helps, guides, and saves us, and when we live with Jesus, we feel strength and joy welling up within us.

3:12 When Peter saw this, he addressed the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you stare at us as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"

There is nothing miraculous about it. If we believe in Jesus, who gave his life as a ransom for us, died, and was raised from the dead, there is nothing miraculous about it for us. If Jesus died on the cross for us, forgave us, and gave us the Holy Spirit as a gift, and if God is with us and works through us, then we understand that everything is inevitable and not surprising.

Romans 8:29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.

8:30 And those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified.

8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

"O Israelites, why are you amazed at this? Why do you stare at us as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk?"

Therefore, we need not fear our own strength or faithfulness. We need not sigh that we can do nothing because of our lack of these things. It is up to God and Jesus, whom He sent.

3:13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has given glory to his servant Jesus. But you handed him over and denied him in the presence of Pilate, even though

Pilate had decided to release him.

3:14 You rejected this holy and righteous man and demanded that a murderer be released.

3:15 You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead, and we are witnesses of this.

You asked Pilate to release Barabbas, that notorious criminal, and you crucified Jesus. But it is you who are the murderers, you who crucified an innocent man. These words pierce the heart with their sharpness. We are witnesses to these things, Peter says. We have seen every detail of this injustice and wickedness, clearly and distinctly.

3:16 And it is Jesus' name, the faith in his name, that has given this man such strength that you can see and know that he is alive. It is the faith in Jesus that has completely healed him in your presence.

Peter said that this event of complete healing occurred because of the name of Jesus, whom you rejected, because of the faith of Peter who deeply believed in it, and because of the faith of the man who was sitting at the Beautiful Gate, who heard the name of Jesus and responded to it, and who stood up in response to the spoken name.

Hebrews 7:24 But because he remains forever, he holds his priesthood permanently.

7:25 Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

3:17 Now, brothers, I know that you acted in all this as you were taught, because you were taught by evil men who were like the Christ.

3:18 For God fulfilled beforehand all the words spoken by the prophets through all the prophets, saying that His Christ would suffer.

3:19 Repent therefore, and let your sins be blotted out, that you may receive for yourselves the times of refreshing which the Lord has appointed, and that He may send Jesus Christ, whom He has given, both for the repentance of your sins and for the forgiveness of your sins.

3:20 For the time has come for the salvation of your souls. For today, if you hear his voice, will not your hearts be brought out of coldness? For now the time of God's favor is upon us.

Matthew 5:20 I tell you, no one who is righteous by the law will be saved.

5:21 You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders shall be liable to judgment.'

5:22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; and whoever says to his brother, 'Raca,' shall be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be liable to the fire of hell.

In the reality of sin, where even those who are unaware of it continue to commit the sin of murder by driving innocent people to death, God sent Jesus to wash away our sins for us, who unconsciously commit sins without even knowing it. Repent and change your heart. By repenting of your sins and making a new start with a renewed heart, we can turn toward the path of life-filled happiness and blessing.

3:20 For the time has come for the consolation of our God, and the door has been opened for us to speak the gospel to those who are not our own people.

We desire to share this consolation and this new way of life with gratitude and joy.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for today's worship service. We are grateful that Peter truly relied on the power of the Lord Jesus when he said, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or piety we had made this man walk?" We also give thanks for the words, "This man whom you see is made strong by the name of Jesus. It is by faith in that name that he was completely healed before all of you. It is the faith in Jesus that healed him completely before all of you." Please lead all those who are suffering into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and the people of our community. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.