

A Miracle with a Message

Acts 3:1–16 (NIV)

A. The Setting for the Miracle

1. A great revival had begun at Pentecost (Acts 2).
2. The promised gift of Christ—the Helper—had come (Acts 1:4–8).
 - a. The Holy Spirit was poured out on those gathered (Acts 2:1–4).
 - b. The apostles testified in languages understood by all (Acts 2:4–6).
 - c. Through Peter’s sermon, three thousand were saved (Acts 2:41).
3. The church had been born, and the Spirit’s power was present.
4. Now Luke shows us how that power touches one broken life.
5. Pentecost was not the end of God’s work—it was the beginning.

B. More Than a Miracle

1. This is the first recorded public miracle of the church after Pentecost.
2. An ordinary day becomes an extraordinary moment.
3. The healing of this crippled man was a miracle with a message.
4. At the temple gate sat a man crippled from birth.
 - a. He had never walked.
 - b. He had never run.
 - c. He had never entered the temple courts like others.
5. His entire life had been shaped by limitation—until one ordinary afternoon.
6. The question before us is not *what happened*, but *what does it mean*?
7. The message is this:
8. What people need most is not what we have, but who we have—Jesus.
9. What people need most is not what we can give, but what Christ can do.

C. Two Went to the Temple to Pray (v. 1)

1. Peter and John went up to the temple at the hour of prayer.
2. The temple was different after the Cross.
 - a. The veil had been torn in two (Matt. 27:51).
 - b. Access to God was now open through faith in Christ.
3. This was the time of the evening sacrifice.
4. A reminder that Christ had offered the final sacrifice for sin.
5. They were simply being faithful in ordinary obedience.
6. God often does His greatest work while we simply doing what He called us to do.
7. Prayer prepares the way for both miracles and message.

D. One Went to the Temple to Beg (vv. 2–3)

1. The crippled man had been lame from birth and lived on daily handouts.
2. His routine was unchanging—carried daily, begging daily, hoping daily.
3. His condition reflects our spiritual reality apart from Christ (Rom. 3:10–23).
4. When he saw Peter and John, he expected money—not healing.
5. He believed in help, but not transformation.

6. How often do we do the same?
7. We ask God to ease our situation when He wants to transform us.
8. We ask for coins when He is offering new legs.
9. The world's handouts never truly satisfy the human soul.
10. This man needed something the world could never give.

E. One Entered the Temple with Praise (vv. 4–8)

1. Peter saw the man—not as a problem, but as a person with real need.
2. The beggar expected silver; Peter offered something far greater.
3. “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you.”
4. The power was not in Peter—it was in the name of Jesus.
5. “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”
6. Peter took him by the hand and lifted him up.
7. Immediately the man stood, walked, leapt, and praised God.
8. When Jesus heals, His work is immediate, complete, and undeniable.
9. The gospel does not merely help us cope—it restores us to life.

F. A Public Witness Is Born (vv. 9–16)

1. The people recognised the man who had begged for years.
2. Now they saw him walking, leaping, and worshipping.
3. The miracle created an opportunity to proclaim the gospel.
4. Peter redirected all attention and glory to Jesus.
5. He boldly preached Christ:
 - a. You rejected Him.
 - b. God raised Him.
 - c. Faith in His name made this man whole.
6. The miracle was not the message—Jesus was.
7. Miracles may open the door, but the gospel must always be spoken.
8. Changed lives are the most compelling evidence of the gospel.

G. Conclusion

1. This man went to the temple expecting spare change.
2. He asked for coins but received a new life.
3. He left with new legs, new faith, and new purpose.
4. A transformed life became a public testimony.
5. Jesus still heals, restores, and saves.
6. The mission of the church remains the same—
 - a. Proclaim the name of Jesus.
 - b. Lift the broken from sin and shame.
7. What we need today is not silver or gold,
8. But faith in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.
9. Salvation is the greatest miracle of all.
10. “There is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”