

### Context

- 1] Jesus has died, risen at the feast of Passover.
- 2] 50 days later at the feast of Pentecost he sent the promised Holy Spirit
- 3] The outline of the life of the church is described – then were continuing steadfastly in The apostles teaching and the fellowship, the breaking of bread and of prayer (2:42-47)

### The Situation (1,2)

**1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.**

A] Peter and John

? Where was James (cf Peter James and John (Lk 8:51; 9:28)

Nb Peter, the rock (Mt 16:18); John the disciple whom Jesus loved (Jn 21:20)

B] going up to Temple

? Why if God's presence no longer dwelt there (Jn 4:21-23, Matt 27:51)

C] at hour of prayer, 9<sup>th</sup> hour.

Cf Peter praying (10:3)

I.e. the hour when Jesus died (Lk 23:44-46)

\*GRACE The Lord has opened a way for us by His death on the cross\*

**2 a man lame from birth was being carried whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the Temple**

a) a man, lame from birth, was being carried

nb taken as a contemporary sign of sin (Jn 9:2)

cf the state of mankind – 'lame from birth' i.e. incapable of any movement towards God

b) whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate

nb gk *horaios* = 'beautiful' or 'timely' (Christians named)

Jews expected messiah through it from the East – Jesus had entered Jerusalem there, for last time, on Palm Sunday

Cf But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His son (Gal 4:4)

c) to ask alms of those entering the temple

i.e. begging - he was asking for 'grace' he could give nothing in return

cf The parable of the Good Samaritan - The man left half dead by the robbers (Lk 10:29)

\*Acknowledge that you are totally helpless as far as entering the presence of God\*

### The encounter (3-7)

**3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.**

I.e. he took the initiative and called for their attention

**4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.**

*Nb 'Look at us' Peter & John wanted there to be no doubt where this miracle was coming from.  
\*Fix your attention on the word of God\**

**6 But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!"**

a) Silver and gold

*Nb most expensive – not bronze and copper of the cheaper coins  
I.e. something even more valuable silver and gold...*

b) In the name of Jesus.

*Cf 4:7,10; 9:34; 16:18*

*JESUS' Salvation / healing comes in the name of the Lord*

c) Rise up and walk

*Nb Met with faith – he must have tried to walk*

*Cf Acts 14:8-10*

**7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.**

a) By the right hand

*Right hand of the power of God (Lk 22:69)*

b) Raised him up immediately his feet were made strong

*Cf seeing he had faith to be made well (Acts 14:9)*

*\*Let those, in the name of Jesus, take you by the right hand\**

## **The reaction (8-10)**

**8 And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.**

a) and leaping up

*cf then shall the lame man leap like a deer (Is 35:6)*

*\*note the Spirit of Jesus enables you to walk / respond to Him\**

b) entered the Temple with them

*nb His lameness healed, he was now allowed to enter the Temple*

*cf Therefore brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way He has opened up for us (Heb 10:19,20)*

c) walking and leaping and praising God

*nb He praised God (NOT Peter and John!) as it was His Name, the Name of Jesus that had healed him.*

*\*God is the one who is worthy of our praise\**

*\*Enter God's Temple as He enables you\**

*\*Show God that you are grateful\**

**9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms.**

a] witnessed the effect

*i.e., leaping for joy and praising God*

*\*Let the world see (not the church!) that Jesus has enabled you to enter the presence of God\**

b] recognised

1) at timely / beautiful gate

2) asking for alms

*Nb at the right time, the lame beggar, receives the Saviour, and is given access to the presence of God*

**10b And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.**

*Cf amazed at Jesus (2:47; 4:36; 8:56)*

*Men of Israel. Why do you wonder? (3:12)*

*Be amazed at the changes seen in the life of a person who recognises and welcomes Messiah Jesus*

## **Conclusion**

1] Jesus has opened the way into the presence of God for totally helpless people like me.

2] Receive 'the inexpressible gift' (2 Cor 9:15) and go in

**MP** *God's priceless gift to us in Jesus enables us to enter His presence*

**KV** *Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus rise up and walk!" (6)*