

## **Analyzing the Acts 3 Miracle: Walking, Leaping & Praising God**

***By Pastor Anison Samuel***

Acts 3:1-8 The first miracle that performed by the church was bigger than a miracle. It was a notable sign pointing to something more (Acts 4:16).

1. Why did Luke call it the “beautiful” gate when there was no previous mention of the name designated to that gate in the entirety of the Old Testament? This Greek word for “beautiful” is used primarily to refer to ripe fruit. It is also used to indicate the time when a child has reached the age of maturity. It is about the timing of God into a season of ripeness. God waited 40 years for the fruit to ripen and then sent two harvesters, Peter and John. God is announcing that this is the season of ripeness.
2. What is the significance of the mention of 40 years (Acts 4:22)? This miracle addresses both timing and rules. Because the man was lame, the law mandated that he was not allowed into the temple (2 Samuel 5:8). This man had heard about Jesus healing the lame (Matthew 21:14). He probably had friends who were healed but he had been passed over. Why? God was waiting for the timing of the fruit to ripen. The people of Israel were at the gate of the promised land for 40 years but could not get in. Moses led them that far but God wanted the next generation (Joshua) to lead them in. Do you think that you have missed your moment while you are waiting for the ripening? The Holy Spirit is alive and you have not missed the moment. God’s timing is strategic!
3. Why did Luke use two different Greek words for “leaping” (Acts 3:8)? The man’s action of leaping (praising God) was connected to the bigger plan of God. It was fulfilling the Messianic promise and indicating the beginning of the Messianic age. When you praise God, you have no clue that you are connecting with the grand scheme of God. “Leaped up” is a different Greek word. The Septuagint in Micah 2:12-13 uses the same word for “break through the gate”. This scripture refers to the second coming of Christ. In the KJV He is called “the breaker”. In spite of every problem you will pass through the gate because the King is breaking through before you. The devil says you will never come out but you will come out now be-cause the King goes before you. The lame beggar had vertical leaping (praising God) and lateral leaping (breaking through).
4. The psychology of begging involves eye contact (Acts 2:7,8). When the giver makes eye con-tact it indicates interest. The beggar, however, will not give his full attention to one person because he needs to continually be on the watch. In v3, Peter said “Look at us!”. The man did so expecting alms but not a miracle. Peter used his right hand to lift up the man (Acts 3:7). The right hand indicates that the person is made firm with no more wavering (Psalms 16:8). But then in v8 it says that the man stood to his feet. There are two kinds of faith. There is a basic faith that God is a miracle working God. But there is a supernatural faith that makes you stand. There is faith in God and then there is faith from God (Acts 3:16)!

Prophetic words: 1. (Acts 3:11) Why did they go to Solomon’s Portico? That was where Jesus announced that whoever believes in Him would do greater works than Him (John 14:12)! The believers met there (Acts 5:12). We are entering into the same space to do the same works that Jesus did and more! That was the headquarters for signs and wonders. 2. (Acts 3:16) When God intervenes, everything that needs to come into order will come into order. There will be perfect soundness. (Isaiah 1:6) 3. (Acts 4:14) The healed man continued to stay with Peter and John.

When his ankle was strengthened, his disposition changed from cowardice to strength. When God sends revival, people's character and personality will change.

The lame man asked for alms; the actual word used there refers to God's *Hesed* mercy. It is God's mercy brought his healing. Your company with fellow beggars is coming to an end because of the mercy of heaven!