

## LAME MAN LEAPING

### I. [Acts 3:11-26 and 4:1-4](#)

A. Last week we talked about Peter's sermon on Pentecost, how people were cut to the quick, asking what they should do. Peter commanded that they repent and be baptized and that day 3,000 souls were saved. Today is one chapter over and Peter preaches yet another piercing sermon, inspired by a crippled beggar.

B. The first 10 verses of Acts 3 can be summed up in an old song: "*Peter and John went to pray; they met a lame man on the way; when he held out his arm and asked for an alm, this is what Peter did say: 'Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!' He went walking and leaping and praising God; walking and leaping and praising God; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!*"

C. Acts 3:11-26 and 4:1-4 takes place at the temple, at the gate called *Beautiful*.

1) **V11-16** "*While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all."* (A healed beggar sets the stage for Peter to preach the Gospel. Peter proclaims Jesus as Messiah and the Healer of this man via the OT scriptures.)

2) **V17-21** "*And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago."* (Jesus was the Promised One, the Christ, the Messiah, and the death they caused, foreordained by God, was to atone for their sin. Mission accomplished!)

3) **V22-26** "*Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to Him in whatever He tells you. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that Prophet shall be destroyed from the people.'* And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' God, having raised up His Servant, sent Him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness." (In Peter's Pentecost sermon he referenced Joel and David; here he references the Patriarchs, Moses, Samuel, and all the prophets. All the OT points to Jesus Christ...) (cf Deut. 18:15-19; Gen. 22:15-18; Gen. 26:3-5.)

4) **4:1-4** "*And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand."* (Peter didn't even get to finish his sermon!) (Where's the faith? Right here! And with every person who responded in genuine repentance to Peter's Gospel message!)

D. People like to allude to their alleged faith walks in various ways. They typically say things like: "*Me and the Man Upstairs have our own special understanding.*" "*Even though I don't go to church I really do believe...*" "*I believe in a Great Heavenly Power but don't think the Bible is trustworthy or reliable.*" "*I'm not religious but I am spiritual.*" "*The great outdoors is my own personal cathedral...*" "*I fish or golf or shop or sleep around and the Good Lord is right there with me.*" (Despite what the Bible really says) These notions may seem credible on the surface but we don't get to know God on our terms.

E. If your belief system is outside of God's Word; if your opinions differ from His opinions; if you think God has granted you special exempt status or redacted certain policies and procedures to meet with your approval, you are sorely mistaken. God is not beholden to your views of Him nor beholden to the latest waves of public opinion. Those who think so are thinking much more highly of themselves than what they ought... The amazing thing for those who think like this is that God still loves them, despite their unBiblical off-base ideas. Rebellion is rebellion. What might He say to them? How about, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out!" Yes He actually died to save you from your own arrogant, self-centered, perspectives of who He is...

F. If some who do miracles and cast out demons in Jesus' name or have been lifelong church goers will hear the words, "*Depart from Me I never knew you.*" what about those who live under the deception that God is somehow their golf caddy or co-pilot or because they drop coins in the Salvation Army bell-ringer's bucket and have a framed picture of *Footprints in the Sand* on the bathroom wall they're in good standing with the *Man Upstairs*?! "*Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out!*"

G. Back-in-the-day there was a phrase among fellow Christians: "*If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?*" If your sins have been wiped out, shouldn't there be some visible indicators?

H. Spiritually we were all born lame. The maker of silver and gold, though He was rich, became poor, that we might enjoy the riches of His glory--even to become heirs of His kingdom, children of the Living God. In His name--by faith in His name--He will lift us from our crippling depravity, heal us of our spiritual paralysis, cause us to jump to our feet. By His stripes we can be healed; by His wounds we can be made whole, by His death He brings us life; because He rose, we too will leave our graves. Walking, and leaping, and praising God are gestures meant for us too, won for us by God the Son. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, let us all rise up and walk!

\* Close with Prayer...

## [Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

### [Acts 3:11-26 and 4:1-4 \(ESV\)](#)

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's. 12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. 17 "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. 19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, 21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago. 22 Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to Him in whatever He tells you. 23 And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that Prophet shall be destroyed from the people.' 24 And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. 25 You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, 'And in your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' 26 God, having raised up His Servant, sent Him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness." [Acts 4:1-4](#) 1 And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

### [Film Clips & Other Links](#)

Peter Heals a Lame Man - The Bible Series

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRLVMTJlhjU>

To the American Church - John Piper

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cevtaOxQln0>

What Are Some Current Problems in the Western Church? - Tim Keller

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMLp2mYN\\_D8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jMLp2mYN_D8)

"That was Then, This is Now" by Josh Wilson

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8H\\_m2ql5kSs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8H_m2ql5kSs)

If Jesus Were the Pastor of Your Church You Probably Wouldn't Go - Francis Chan

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=havd\\_RVXOEM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=havd_RVXOEM)

## **Bonus Stuff**

### **Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (NIV) (Moses to Israel)**

**15** The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to Him. **16** For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." **17** The Lord said to me: "What they say is good. **18** I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put My words in His mouth. He will tell them everything I command Him. **19** I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to My words that the Prophet speaks in My name.

### **Genesis 22:15-18 (ESV) (God's Blessing to Abraham)**

**15** And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven **16** and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, **17** I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, **18** and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

### **Genesis 26:3-5 (ESV) (God's Blessing to Isaac)**

**3** Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. **4** I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, **5** because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

### **Isaiah 35:5-6b (ESV)**

**5** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; **6** then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

### **Isaiah 61:1-3 (NKJV)**

**1** "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me,  
Because the Lord has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
**2** To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,  
And the day of vengeance of our God;  
To comfort all who mourn,  
**3** To console those who mourn in Zion,  
To give them beauty for ashes,  
The oil of joy for mourning,  
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
That they may be called trees of righteousness,  
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."

### **Matthew 11:2-6 (NKJV)**

**2** And when John (*the Baptist*) had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples **3** and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" **4** Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: **5** The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. **6** And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

### **Luke 7:18-23 (NKJV)**

**18** Then the disciples of John reported to him concerning all these things. **19** And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to Jesus, saying, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" **20** When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?'" **21** And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. **22** Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. **23** And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

**He's Able, He's Able**

By Paul E. Paino - 1958

He's able, He's able, I know He's able;  
I know my Lord is able to carry me through. (Repeat)

He healed the broken-hearted  
and set the captive free;  
He made the lame to walk again  
and caused the blind to see.

He's able, He's able, I know He's able;  
I know my Lord is able to carry me through.