

ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

A Glimpse of Eden
Acts 3:1-26

Acts 3:1-26

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And 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. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. 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. 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!”

7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. 8 And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. 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. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

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...

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.

Eden Broken

² And 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.

Our Felt Needs

Sin has broken Creation;
broken Eden.

Physically
Emotionally
Relationally

What's yours today?

The Solutions

1) “silver and gold” –
Temporary Solution.

2) “rise up and walk” –
Preview of Restoration.

*How do you “settle” for
lesser healings?*

Our Deepest Need

Sin's primary
consequence is the
brokenness of our souls.

("killed the Author of Life")

Our Relationship with God
Our Self-Centeredness

The Real Solution

Our only true and
permanent cure is to swap
our lameness with Jesus'
glory.

*"¹³ The God of Abraham,
the God of Isaac, and the
God of Jacob, the God of
our fathers, glorified his
servant Jesus...^{15b} whom
God raised from the dead."*

Jesus Broken

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...

1 Peter 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Eden Applied

(Imperfect) Faith

16 And (Jesus') name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know...

12b ...as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?

(Imperfect) Repentance (& Perfect Forgiveness)

19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out...

Can I admit and own my personal lameness?

Eden Applied

(Imperfect) Restoration

God gives us glimpses of Eden by sometimes healing us in the here-and-now.

But he will always give a spiritual glimpse of Eden by spiritually restoring any who ask back to himself, leading us to....

(Imperfect) Refreshment

²⁰ that times of refreshing (“catch your breath”) may come from the presence of the Lord...



Eden Applied

(Perfect) Restoration & Refreshment

^{20b} 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.

Eden Applied

Ask

“3b ...he asked to receive alms.”

Walk

“rise up and walk”

Praise

*“and entered the temple with them,
walking and leaping and praising God.”*

Give

“what I do have I give to you”

Eden Applied

What part of Eden do you need to taste today?

Physical.

Relational.

Spiritual.

Let's come together and pray in the power and piety of Jesus to give us a glimpse of Eden right now.