

## Lesson IV.

## THE LAME MAN HEALED

January 26, 1902

Acts 3: 1-10. Study Acts 3: 1-16. Commit to memory vs. 6-8. Read ch. 3.

1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked them alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none;

**Revised Version**—I were going up; 2 That was; 3 Door; 4 To receive; 5 From; 6 But Peter; 7 What I have that give I thee; 8 Walk; 9 Raised; 10 Began to walk; and he; 11 Took knowledge of him.

but 7 such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, arise up and walk.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and 8 lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength.

8 And he leaping up stood, and 10 walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

10 And they 11 knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

## EXPLANATION

**Connection**—There are no intervening events recorded between this lesson and the last. Luke here records the miracle which led up to the first persecution of the disciples by the Jewish rulers.

1. **Peter and John**; they were leaders among the apostles and were old friends (Luke 5: 10) and close companions, though unlike in character. (Luke 22: 8; John 18: 16; 20: 28; Acts 8: 14.) **Were going up** (Rev. Ver.): were on their way to worship in the Temple. The disciples still observed Jewish forms of worship, though they were believers on Jesus. **The hour of prayer**: perhaps at the time of the evening sacrifice, about 3 p.m. (Luke 1: 9, 10.)

2. **A certain man**; lame from birth, and above 40 years old (4: 22). **Was carried**; by kind friends. **The gate, etc.** It was probably the gate at the eastern entrance to the Court of the Women. It was 75 feet high, 60 feet broad, made of Corinthian brass, and covered with plates of gold and silver.



Eastern Beggars by the Roadside

"On the pillars on either side of this gate were engraved in Greek letters the words, 'Let no stranger pass beyond this on pain of death.'" Josephus describes this gate as surpassing any of the other nine in value. To ask alms; to beg assistance from the worshippers; a common place for beggars still in southern Europe and in the East.

3-5. **Seeing Peter and John**. They must have been by this time well-known men. **Peter, fastening his eyes**; with fixed, earnest, penetrating gaze, as if to look into his very soul. **With John**. Peter is the spokesman, but God wrought through

them both. **Look on us**. He would awaken the man's faith, and take his thoughts away from mere money to something better. (Matt. 13: 53.) **He gave heed**; with perhaps a faint hope for something better than money.

6. **Silver and gold, etc.** They had left all to follow Jesus (Matt. 4: 18-22). They depended on others for support, which came now from the common fund (ch. 2: 44, 45). **Such as I have**; far better than money—the power to heal through Christ. **In the name of Jesus Christ**; the Divine Saviour. Peter would ascribe all the power to Him, none to himself. **Of Nazareth**; added to make plain the One referred to. **Walk**; a startling command to a cripple from birth; it could not fail to arrest attention.

7, 8. **Took him by the right hand**; to strengthen and encourage his faith (Mark 1: 31). **Feet and ancle bones**. Luke was a physician and is exact in his description. **Received strength**; from Christ, through his own and Peter's faith (v. 16). **Leaping up**; a fulfilment of the prophecy of Isa. 35: 6. **Stood**; to get his balance. **And walked**; about the court. **Entered into the temple**; into the next court of the temple, perhaps the Court of the Men. The courts of the Women and of the Gentiles were outside of this court. **Leaping**; so joyous was he. **Praising God**; for the wonderful cure, showing that he was cured in mind as well as body.

9, 10. **The people saw him**. There would be very many worshippers in the Temple at the time of the evening sacrifice. **Took knowledge of him** (Rev. Ver.). Their attention was closely drawn to him. There was no denying the miracle, for the man was well known (4: 16). **Wonder and amazement**. Their amazement would make them more ready to listen to the words which Peter spoke.

As the verses that follow tell, the man gratefully clung to Peter and John, and a wondering crowd soon gathered in Solomon's porch, a colonnade, 600 feet long, supported by marble pillars, outside the court of the Gentiles on the east (v. 11). Peter preached to them, telling them that he and John had not wrought the miracle, but that it was wrought by Jesus, the Prince of Life, whom they had slain. Joined to these stern words was a gracious declaration of God's offer of life in Christ Jesus, who was now risen again from the dead.