**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

**Resurrection Series**

Acts of the Holy Spirit

Beggar Healed – Peter’s 2nd Sermon – Acts 3

June 23rd, In the Year of Our Lord 2024

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(All Scripture is from the New American Standard Bible, unless otherwise noted.)

Sermon Audio: roundtopchurch.org / Under Member’s tab

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I think that anyone wanting to know the historical facts of Christianity, regarding what took place after Jesus ascended to Heaven, will find Peter’s 1st and 2nd sermons foundational. Of the twelve Apostles, Peter is the leading candidate to lead the way in fulfilling the Great Commission. Peter’s natural personality, being over confidant, of which Jesus reeled in, and tampered by Peter’s own self-inflicted blunders, he matured to be that voice Christ had planned and called him. Peter’s Holy Spirit empowered 1st sermon at Pentecost in Jerusalem resulted in 3000 people surrendering to the name of Jesus and His Good News.

Remember, the Jews had been under the theocratic edicts of the Jewish religious leadership whose center of power was headquartered in the Jerusalem Temple. Their application of the Law code, God had given Moses, was oppressive and created a barrier to distance people from a personal relationship with God. Remember, the book of Hebrews details how and why Jesus supplants the entire Temple system and its leadership. Jesus is the One and only High Priest that successfully made atonement for sin directly accessible whereas the Law was never intended to do (Hebrews 10). The Jews leadership had become an oppressive mediator to access God’s love and forgiveness. They had overlaid the love and forgiveness of God with their own chosen deceit driven by their sin of pride to make them the greedy overlords of the common person. We have the same mediating ecclesiastical/liturgical churches apply their pride and oppression to people today. I cannot stress enough that the second anyone positions themselves as a mediator between God and people they have walked away from the Good News of Jesus Christ. Their self-indulged message is that Jesus, from the Cross, said, “Look at my body, my sacrifice, it is not enough. . .you must follow the meritorious religious orders given by church leaders and add your work to mine.”

 So, the success Peter experienced came through teaching of the Good News, in Jesus’ name, directly to the people who did not have any mediating chasm. Let’s read how the lame beggar was chosen by God to be a witness of His power of not only healing physically but spiritually. There are many points to this story, but we will only be able to reflect on a few. I think one of the main teachings we receive is that God can exceed our expectations if we choose to surrender to Him.

**Setting the stage:**

Peter, the Jew, returns to the Temple to pray like many others. This is not unusual. By Jewish time. . .it is the NINTH HOUR: 3-4 PM. This is when the second *Tamid* lamb is sacrificed [Josehpus: Antiquities of the Jews 14.4.3 (14:65); Philo Special Laws I, XXXV (169)]. (Exodus 29:38-42; Numbers 28:2-8). This time is considered the second hour of prayer for the Jews at the Temple (Acts 3:1; 10:9) "Minchah" (gift-offering); also called the hour of confession.

Dr. Terry Harman has a good online article about the Jewish daily Third and Ninth Hour of prayer. Here is my summation of his article:

The Ninth Hour of prayer is very significant in that the parallels can be drawn from the Cross of Jesus to the unblemished lamb sacrificed at the third hour and ninth hour being the Tamid lamb (Tamid: regular, continuous). In addition, even though Jews are not present in Jerusalem, they pray to God wherever they are. The Jews pray for forgiveness of sin as individuals and a nation and draw closer to God.

https://www.thetabernacleman.com/post/the-daily-tamid-offering-part-2

From this understanding of Jewish *Tamid* sacrifices performed at the third hour (9 AM) and ninth hour (3 PM), it is an obvious conclusion to ask the question. . . what hours was Jesus on the Cross to the time of His death? Mark’s Gospel gives us a direct answer.

It was the third hour when they crucified Him. (Mark 15:25)

 When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour.

 (Mark 15:33)

At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" which is translated, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" [Psalm 22] (Mark 15:34)

 18 They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

 19 But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance.

 20 Deliver my soul from the sword, My only life from the power of the dog.

 21 Save me from the lion's mouth; From the horns of the wild oxen, You answer me.

 22 I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly, I will praise You.

 23 You who fear the LORD, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. (Psalm 22:18-23)

**(See Additional Note Added to Sermon Page 9)**

**Peter, John, and Paul, to name, a few… all fulfill Psalm 22:22 by telling of the name of Jesus to assemblies of people, to the descendants of Jacob/Israel.**

So, Peter, continually empowered by God’s Holy Spirit, had to have known there would be many people at the Temple at the ninth hour of prayer. God had prepared him to be that voice to deliver the Good News. Remember, God is the One who arranged the lame beggar to engage Peter leading to an exchange of words and the beggar being healed due to his faith. In Peter’s sermons, it is apparent he accurately knew his own Jewish history from the Torah, prophets and the writings. His audience could not deny the historical relevance of God’s covenant beginning with Abraham, in which Peter made the claim that through Jesus it was fulfilled.

**Peter heals lame beggar at Beautiful Gate**

**Acts 3:1-26**

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

 2 And a man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the **gate** of the temple which is called **Beautiful**, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple.

 3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms 1647.

 4 But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!"

 5 And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

 **6 But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you:**

**In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--walk!"**

 7 And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

 8 With a leap he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

**Result of Healing Miracle: Public Witness**

**Acts 3:9-11**

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

 10 and they were taking note of him as being the one who used to sit at the **Beautiful Gate** of the temple to *beg* alms, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

 11 While he was clinging to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them at the so-called **portico of Solomon**, full of amazement.

**Peter’s Second Public Sermon**

**Peter attributes healing to “power that comes through faith” in Jesus’ name (v.16)**

**Not a power from Peter (v. 12)**

**Peter quotes or references: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Samuel,**

 **David, Isaiah, Ezekiel. About 1,600 years of witnesses.**

 12 But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people,

 "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own

power or piety we had made him walk? 13 "The God of Abraham [1955-1780 BC], Isaac [1855-1675 BC] and Jacob [1795-1647 BC], the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, *the one* whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him.

 Notice Peter makes the same charge as in the first sermon.

14 "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, 15 but put to death the Prince of life, *the one* whom God raised from the dead, *a fact* to which we are witnesses.

16 "And **on the basis of faith in His name**, *it* ***is* the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man** whom you see and know; and the faith which *comes* through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all.

 God shows grace to guilty Jews. . . attributed “ignorance.”

 17 "And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also.

 18 "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the **prophets**, that **His Christ would suffer**, He has thus fulfilled.

(Psalm 22: David ca.1040-971 BC; Isaiah 53: 762-680 BC)

19 "Therefore, **repent and return**,

 **Repent**: Strong’s **3340 μετανοέω** *metanoeo* **Meaning:** to change one’s mind or *purpose*

**Origin:** from *3326* and *3539* **Usage:** repent(26), repented(5), repents(3).

**Notes:** Acts 3:19, 2:38; 26:20;

**Return: Strong’s 1994 ἐπιστρέφω** *epistrepho* **Meaning:** to turn, to return **Origin:** from *1909* and *4762*

**Usage:** back(2), back\*(3), return(6), returned(3), returns(2), take back(1), turn(8), turn back(1), turned(6), turned again(1), turned around(1), turning(2), turning around(2), turns(2), turns...back(1).

**Notes:** Acts 3:19, 26:20 (repent and return)

so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 20 and that He [God the Father] may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, 21 whom heaven must receive until *the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

 (ca. 590 BC**:** Ezekiel 18:30,14:6)

22 "Moses said, [ca. 1450 BC] 'THE LORD GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED to everything He says to you. 23 'And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.' (Deuteronomy 18:15-19)

24 "And likewise, all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and *his* successors onward, also announced these days.

[Samuel anointed Saul 1st King of United Monarchy (ca. 1050 BC)]

25 "It is you who are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham,

'AND IN YOUR SEED ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED.'

 (Genesis 12:3, 18:18, 22:18.26:14; Galatians 3:8)

26 "For you [Jews] first, God raised up His Servant and sent Him to bless you by turning every one *of you* from your wicked ways."

 Think about the success Peter is having being empowered by God’s Holy Spirit, the power that the Resurrected Jesus said would come. Peter and the apostles are there in Jerusalem, at the Temple, the headquarters of the Jewish Sanhedrin, Sadducees, Pharisees and Scribes speaking in the name of Jesus, a man. . . who the authorities knew they had killed and His followers scattered. But NO. NO. Their worst nightmare was upon them. Theirrrrrr BACK! The Spiritual power of God that was displayed in the Incarnation, which they refused to surrender . . . was upon them again and growing with at least 3000 (Acts 2:41) people surrendering to the Gospel Message of a crucified man . . . a man whose tomb was empty and body missing.

 The Jewish leaders must have been in shock. What were they to do? Go to the Romans again and seek another crucifixion when Jesus had really been found not guilty of a crime, but the Jews exchanged Barabbas for Him. The religious leaders, as we will see, eventually arrest Peter and John but soon released them. Remember, God orchestrated all of these events.

**Acts 3:18** "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that **His Christ would suffer**, He has thus fulfilled.

(Psalm 22: David ca.1040-971 BC; Isaiah 53: 762-680 BC)

 After the lame beggar was healed and he went and told others who were at the Temple for the Ninth Hour of prayer, the Lord empowered Peter to speak to this Jewish audience. Remember that he had come to the Temple to be closer to God.

In Peter’s sermon, he covers God’s covenant through Abraham and the Patriarchal period, then Moses representing the Exodus and Wilderness Journey. . . then Samuel and the United Monarchy time with the three kings (Saul, David, Solomon) . . . then, Isaiah a prophet before the Babylonian captivity and Ezekiel a prophet during the Babylonian captivity. Peter, before he was arrested. . . highlighted again the covenant God made with Abraham to be a blessing to the Jews and the families of the earth (Acts 3:25).

**Let’s Look at the Main Teaching from Peter’s Sermon:**

 **Peter heals the lame beggar and gives him more than he asks.**

 **Healing draws the attention of the large number of Temple worshipers.**

**This healing sets up an audience for Peter’s second sermon.**

3 When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms 1647.

 4 But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!"

 5 And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

 **6 But Peter said,** **"I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you:**

**In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--walk!"**

**Summation and Personal Note**

I see that we all can be the lame beggar. . .in that we often miss the blessing God has intended for us by being consumed with issues of this fallen world. The lame beggar wanted money but God’s intent was to change his life and made it possible for the lame beggar to walk and make his own money now that he could get around. God’s way improved his life overall.

Many times, our wants cripple us from achieving God’s goal for our lives. I want to share a personal life-story with you. Years ago, Renee and I chased the American Dream which is what we were trained to do by family and society. By the time we were 24 years old, we and the mortgage company owned a four-bedroom home and a few new cars. We worked all the time. Then the struggles of time, money, and family became too much. Not enough time to do anything but work to pay the bills. All of this strained our marriage.

At the same time, I had a friend who stayed in the starter home and drove older but working cars. His wife stayed home to raise their children and not the day-care staff. Renee and I had to make a decision. . . continue pursuing economic success that impressed the neighbors or pursue God’s plan for family. Renee quit work, and we drove less expensive used cars. We stopped pursuing what the capitalist society trained us to do which looked like success on the outside, but was not sustainable on the inside of our hearts and minds. We made it through because we chose to have a family that walked in God’s ways. . . held together by the commitment we made to God to marriage and raising our children. . . and not a family crippled by the pursuit of money.

**"I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you:**

**In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--walk!" (Acts 3:6)**

 **AMEN**

**Additional Notes on Mark 15:34 and Psalm 22**

At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" which is translated, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?" [Psalm 22] (Mark 15:34)

 18 They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

 19 But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance.

 20 Deliver my soul from the sword, My only life from the power of the dog.

 21 Save me from the lion's mouth; From the horns of the wild oxen, You answer me.

 22 I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly, I will praise You.

 23 You who fear the LORD, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. (Psalm 22:18-23)

It is a popular teaching to explain Mark 15:34 as the time Jesus took the sins of the world upon Himself and God could not look upon Him because God cannot look upon sin. This is stated with no evidence given unless the speaker may reference Habakuk 1:13 of which we will examine shortly. I do note. . . that the times I have heard this explanation, that “God cannot look upon sin”, Psalm 22 is not mentioned.

 I have heard this preached in recorded and live sermons starting from 1950, by many well-known evangelists. These well-known evangelists, at times, have also declared they are not theologians skilled in language. These is a misconception in the Christian world that because someone is a Pastor, Evangelists, Priest or titled person they are an expert in all things including Biblical exegesis: *a critical explanation or interpretation of the biblical text.* In reality, we in ministry are generally-skilled in many different areas and very proficient in some. We also rely upon others who are skilled in areas we are not. Paul does teach that we receive different gifts to function together just as our arms and legs complement each other. Another problem in the church world is that it is easy to repeat things we hear and believe them but never research the subject on our own. I encourage everyone to research every sermon I preach and bring to my attention concerns. I would rather be incorrect one time and make a correction than to continue to repeat a false statement. So, we help each other. I do not want to be a Pastor on my own.

With this said, let me explain Mark 15:34 and Psalm 22.

Anyone reading Jesus’ words from the Cross in Mark 15:34 are a bit taken by His words. Like, where does this come from? Without knowing the Old Testament and the first line of Psalm 22, there is no clue. The New American Standard Bible, I used in Seminary (Lockman Foundation), did capitalize the "ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI” to let you know that it is from the Old Testament but they do not give a book name, chapter or verse number. So, most people reading Mark 15:34 have no reference.

To illustrate the point of knowing where a statement comes from makes the meaning clear. . . I quoted “Four score and seven years ago” in the sermon. This is not a normal statement in our current use of English. . . and most Americans know it is the opening remarks made by Abraham Lincoln when he gave his *Gettysburg Address,* during the Civil War over 150 years ago. The power and truth in Lincoln’s speech is throughout his short speech. The significance of the first sentence has become a reference point in time. Americans automatically know the significance and impact this one line carries throughout history and what it points to Lincoln and the Civil War.

This same application can be made with Jesus’ words from the Cross, "ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" which is translated, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?". . . a direct quote from Psalm 22. By quoting Psalm 22, Jesus points to the whole message in the Psalm which, in my opinion is a victory Psalm that declares, “You thought you killed me, but NO, I will be back to witness and praise God’s name to the brethren in the assembly. . . to the descendants of Jacob/Israel.”

**Psalm 22:1** For the choir director; upon Aijeleth Hashshahar. A Psalm of David.

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.

So, where is the Scripture evidence to support the teaching that at the point Jesus uttered the words “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me” is the exact point in history when Jesus took the sins of the world on His shoulders and therefore became sin and then God cannot look upon sin. So, God the Father, forsook Jesus? Preachers who teach this. . .point to Habakkuk 1:13 and misquote the verse or only quote part of the verse by saying “God cannot look upon evil.” Let’s read the verse. Take note that it is Habakkuk talking. . . not God. Habakkuk is complaining to God and talking out-loud, asking questions.

**Habakkuk 1:13** Your eyes are too pure to [approve] evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look *with favor* On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

First: the word *approval* is supplied in place of the simplicity of God “*Seeing or looking on evil”*. The idea is that. . . the evil God sees, He does not approve/favor. So, God does not approve or favor wickedness but He looks upon evil/sin. And then, Habakkuk goes on to declare, that God, in fact, looks upon evil but he, the prophet, is confused about God’s silence in confronting evil.

I have never heard of another verse quoted to support the teaching that God cannot look upon evil. If there is. . . please someone let me know.

Now, did Jesus’s Cross pay the price for everyone’s sin? Yes. Note that none of these verses point to a specific time or specific event during the Cross event. They are all general statements.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Galatians 3:13** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"

**1 John 3:5** You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin.

**1 Peter 2:24** and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

There is no doubt, the act of Jesus taking the sins of the world upon Himself is the central act of the Incarnation, which includes the Cross. When we say the Cross in reference to paying the price for sin. . . I see that this includes from the time of Jesus’ arrest in the garden, through the trials, beatings, scourging, crown of thorns imbedded in His head, being nailed to the Cross and being speared in the side, then dying. . . as all part of paying the price for the sins of the world. There is no Scripture, that I am aware, that points to one specific Cross event and signals out a specific point in time that Jesus absorbed the sins of the world. The whole Cross event accomplished this atonement of God’s grace and love.

I want to add. . . God looks upon sin every day. God incarnated Himself as Jesus Christ and walked, talked, ate with, and embraced sinners every day.

In conclusion, Jesus points to a victory Psalm (22) from the Cross just before His physical body expires. Jesus is saying. . . NO, you cannot stop Me, I will continue to tell of the name of God. It is my opinion that in Psalm 22, verse 19 “turns the tide”. Not only does the Resurrected Jesus return to witness God to the Jews, Jesus’ disciples, particularly Peter and John, witness in His name to the Jews and the whole world fulfilling God’s promise to Abraham.

**Psalm 22**

19 But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance.

 20 Deliver my soul from the sword, My only life from the power of the dog.

 21 Save me from the lion's mouth; From the horns of the wild oxen, You answer me.

 22 I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly, I will praise You.