



6 JESUS' POWER

ACTS 3:1-10

9.29.2013

INTRODUCTION

- **Q.**
- This brings us to ACTS. **ACTS 3:1-10.**
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- **TURN AND READ ACTS 3:1-10.**

1. Why do we suffer? 2. What hope is there for those who suffer?
3. Why does God allow suffering?

WHY DO WE SUFFER?

1 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.

EXPLAIN

- **Q.** What's going on here? **Peter & John** > **Man paralyzed from birth** (he's over 40 years old)
- **Put yourself in his situation:** He's never walked. Never climbed a tree. Never ran towards someone he loves. Will likely never marry. **He can't work, so, he begs.**
- **Day by day his friends bring him** to sit outside of the Temple to depend on the generosity of God's people.
- **Q.** Why? Why was this man born a cripple? Why do we suffer? **Answer: SIN**
- **Genesis 1 & 2** tells us that God created everything and called it very good.
- **Genesis 3** tells us that Adam and Eve rebelled against God through sin. Sin entered the world and fractured everything. We've made ourselves God's enemy through our sin.
- **There's a Holy Curse hanging over all creation** because of sin.
***Sickness/Disease/Disasters/Deformity/Death*

In **Romans 8:20**, Paul says that "The creation was subjected to futility."

ILLUSTRATE

- **Think of a computer that gets a virus:** It doesn't matter what is on that computer, eventually it will all be infected and affected- the computer and all that's in it suffers.

APPLY

- Sometimes we suffer as a result of our own sin:
break the law, drink too much, etc.
- Most of the time we suffer as a result of living in a fallen world:
this man in Acts 3 is not suffering because of his own personal sin.

SOME PEOPLE MORALIZING SUFFERING

- Some will tell you that if you're suffering, it's definitely because there's some secret sin you need to repent of. *OR you didn't have enough faith. THEY'RE WRONG* ****Jesus in **JOHN 9** AND Paul in **2 COR. 12**

SOME PEOPLE MINIMIZE SUFFERING

- Some will tell "It could always be worse; you could live in Africa and have aids and be starving." ****THEY'RE WRONG TO TRY & MINIMIZE IT. The Bible doesn't do that.

Q. How are you suffering? Q. Are you or others around you moralizing it?

Q. Are you or others around you minimizing it?

Now, we ask Q. What Hope is there for those who suffer? (all of us)

WHAT HOPE IS THERE FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER?

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.

JESUS CAN PHYSICALLY HEAL YOU ON EARTH

- This healing is the first of 14 that is recorded in the book of Acts alone.
- There is power in the name of Jesus. Q. Do you believe that?
- Q. Do you believe that Jesus can heal you?

Jesus can heal anyone and everyone, but Jesus doesn't always heal anyone and everyone.

- The Apostle Paul says he prayed three times for this "Thorn in his flesh" to be removed and Jesus answered "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

JESUS WILL PHYSICALLY HEAL YOU ONE DAY

- You may not experience the same kind of physical healing as this man in Acts 3 here on the earth, but one day you will in heaven.

1 JOHN 3:2 Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

REVELATION 21:2 I saw...the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

JESUS WILL SPIRITUALLY HEAL YOU NOW AND PERFECT IT ONE DAY

- The miracles that Jesus performs are never for mere show. They're always alleviating suffering in some way. They're always pointing to something bigger and grander than the miracle.
- **Look at this crippled man:** He was asking for money (which would help him maintain his life) but he wasn't expecting or asking for a healing (which would radically change his life).

What we *truly* need is almost always deeper than what we want or what we think is possible.

- **This account in Acts 3 is a parallel to a run-in that Jesus had with a crippled man in Luke 5. Q.** Do you remember that story? **EXPOUND*

Our true problem is not physical, relational, or even emotional. It's almost always deeper than we think.

Our true problem is sin. What we truly need is to be saved.

The Gospel promises that all of those who trust in Jesus

- Jesus **has saved us** from the penalty of sin,
- Jesus **is saving us** from the power of sin, and
- Jesus **will save us** one day from the presence and affects of sin.

Q. Are you trusting Jesus for spiritual healing, for forgiveness, for salvation?

Now, we ask **Q.** Why does God allow suffering? (let me be very careful)

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

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.

EXPLAIN

- **Q.** How does this man respond, Ekklesia? **A.** Dude's leaping!

ISAIAH 35:5-6 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

- **Q.** Why does God allow suffering? At least one answer is this:

Suffering maximizes our eternal joy in Jesus.

ILLUSTRATE

- **Q.** Why is this man leaping and praising God as he comes into the temple while the others are not?

The fact that this man had never walked, served to intensify the *JOY* he experienced once he was healed and finally *DID* walk!

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are [temporary], but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Therefore, your suffering is not meaningless!

By God's grace- because He is sovereign and he loves you- your present suffering, no matter what it is, is somehow preparing you for an eternal weight of glory and joy beyond all comparison!

We can trust Jesus that this is true, Ekklesia. Here's why!

JESUS BECAME A MAN TO SUFFER FOR SINNERS

ISAIAH 53:4-7 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

REVELATION 21:4 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall their be morning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Jesus is not indifferent toward your suffering; He cares.

He cares so much that He became a man to suffer for you so He could one day wipe every tear from your eyes and heal all harms.