

***Peter and the Crippled Man***

**050602-1**

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

In the Bible, the word *Apostle* means *one sent forth*. An apostle was endowed with sign gifts and miraculous powers which were the divine credentials of his office. According to **Acts 1:22** and **1 Corinthians 9:1**, the indispensable qualification of an apostle was that he should have been a witness to testify to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. An apostle was a person who was directly chosen by the Lord Himself or, as in the case of Barnabas, chosen by the Holy Spirit.

Peter was a qualified apostle, as we read in **Acts 3**.

**1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour (three o'clock in the afternoon).**

**2 [When] a certain man crippled from his birth was being carried along, who was laid each day at that gate of the temple [which is] called Beautiful, so that he might beg for charitable gifts from those who entered the temple.**

**3 So when he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them to give him a gift.**

**4 And Peter directed his gaze intently at him, and so did John, and said, Look at us!**

**5 And [the man] paid attention to them, expecting that he was going to get something from them.**

**6 But Peter said, Silver and gold (money) I do not have; but**

**what I do have, that I give to you: in [the use of] the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!**

**7 Then he took hold of the man's right hand with a firm grip and raised him up. And at once his feet and ankle bones became strong and steady.**

**8 And leaping forth he stood and began to walk, and he went into the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.**

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

**10 And they recognized him as the man who usually sat [begging] for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement (bewilderment, consternation) over what had occurred - *happened* - to him.**

**11 Now while he [still] firmly clung to Peter and John, all the people in utter amazement ran together and crowded around them in the covered porch (walk) called Solomon's.**

**12 And Peter, seeing it, answered the people, You men of Israel, why are you so surprised and wondering at this? . . .**

Now let me say, it is easy to be hearing this story and think, "Wonderful story! I think I have heard this story before." But this is the risen Lord Jesus Christ; this is the power of God at work; the same power that is working around the world today! Therefore, why are we surprised when God does wonderful things? Peter continues . . . **Why do you keep staring at us, as though by our**

**[own individual] power or [active] piety we made this man [able] to walk?**

**13 The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our forefathers, has glorified His Servant and Son Jesus [doing Him this honor], Whom you indeed delivered up and denied and rejected and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to let Him go.**

**14 But you denied and rejected and disowned the Pure and Holy, the Just and Blameless One, and demanded [the pardon of] a murderer to be granted to you.**

**15 But you killed the very Source (the Author) of life, Whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.**

Incredible, this! There was no holding back. The truth was out. He was making a very clear declaration of who did the killing, who was responsible. And you and I are responsible because of our rebellion and disobedience in the same way. Therefore, the Spirit of the Lord would point His finger at us and say, yes, we are responsible that Jesus hung on that tree. But could you imagine killing to death Him Who is life, the very Source of life? That is what they had done with Jesus. Interesting. The Apostle here is witnessing to the resurrection. When did you, as a Christian, last speak of the resurrection to another person? When did you say Jesus died on the Cross, but He conquered death and rose again; He's alive?

We go on in **Acts 3:16** -

**16** And His name, through and by faith in His name, - *that is the Name of Jesus* - has made this man whom you see and recognize well and strong. [Yes] the faith which is through and by Him [Jesus] has given the man this perfect soundness [of body] before you all.

Peter continues in **verse 22** —

**22** Thus Moses said to the forefathers, The Lord God will raise up for you a Prophet - *Jesus* - *you see this was spoken of by Moses* - from among your brethren as [He raised up] me: Him you shall listen to and understand by hearing and heed in all things whatever He tells you. You do so today in the Name of Jesus as you receive Him.

*Amen.*