

# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## LESSON 5: CHAPTER 3:1-17

26 June 2015

### PENTECOST

Called Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22). Celebrated every year since the Exodus. This was the only feast that contained leaven, as the Lord commanded. Leaven represents corruption.

**Passover:** prefigured Christ's blood offering on the cross. No leaven in this offering. No corruption in the sinless Lamb of God (Heb. 4:15).

**Firstfruits:** prefigured Christ's resurrection three days later. No leaven in the loaf (Exod. 23:18), no corruption in the Lord (Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27).

**Pentecost:** This feast prefigured the formation of the New Testament Church 50 days after Passover. Leaven is to be added to the loaf (Lev. 23:17).

1. Individual grains of corn are broken: a picture of the repentant sinner with a broken and contrite heart.
2. Oil is added: a picture of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2).
3. The individual broken grains of corn are combined into one loaf: a picture of the formation of the Church (Body of Christ). Celebrated for 1500 years without knowing the reason.

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**Acts 2:43**      **"And fear came on every soul."** See 1 Sam. 4:7, Heb. 12:21, 1 Cor. 14:24-25, Gen. 28:17, **"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"** (Heb. 10: 31)

### ACTS CHAPTER 3

- Vs. 1**      The first miracle wrought by the Apostles. Peter and John go to the temple at 3pm ("**ninth hour:**" count twelve hours from 6am to 6pm). It was the hour of prayer when everyone stopped what they were doing to go to the temple and pray.
- Vss. 2-3**    A forty year+ old man (Acts 4:22) who was lame from birth was brought to the "Beautiful gate" of the temple to beg. The fact that the nation was filled with lame, halt, blind, diseased Jews testified to the fact that God's favor was not with them (Exod. 15:26). They had a temple and a priesthood (a corrupt one, see Matt. 21:23), but God wasn't in it (1 Sam 4:21). The man asks an alms (\$) from Peter and John.
- Vss. 4-5**    Peter calls the man to attention. The man "gave heed" (paid close attention). He expected money, but he's about to get something better.
- Vs.6**      Peter didn't have any money, but he had the power of God. He commanded the man to rise up and walk in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. See Isaiah 35:3-5. The Apostles continue the work that Jesus "began to do and teach" (Acts 1:1)

- Vss. 7-11** Instant healing is accomplished by the power of the Lord. The man's feet and ankle bones heal and he leaps up without hesitation, stands, and walks into the temple with Peter and John, "**leaping and praising God.**" Everyone in that temple saw the man (vs. 9). They know him (vs. 10) and they know this man has been lame all his life. That's why they're "**filled with wonder and amazement**" (vs. 10). He's not a stranger. God makes sure there is no doubt in anyone's mind that a true miracle of God has been performed. A crowd gathers around Peter and John and the healed man in Solomon's porch (vs. 11).
- Vs. 12** Peter preaches to the crowd. He immediately deflects the attention away from himself and makes sure the people understand that the lame man wasn't healed by Him, but by the Lord.
- Vs. 13** God... "**hath glorified his Son Jesus**" just as Jesus said he would (Luke 24:25-26). That means He has ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father (Heb. 1:3). See John 7:39, Rev. 5:12.
- Peter reminds them that the One whom God glorified is the very One THEY delivered up and DENIED when Pilate wanted to release Him.
- Vs. 14** The one you denied is "**the Holy One and the Just.**" The one you desired was a murderer (Barabbas; see Matt. 27:20, Lk. 23:18, John 18:40). You had a choice. You chose wrong.
- Vs. 15** You "**killed the Prince of life.**" If He's the Prince of LIFE, He's not going to stay dead! "**Whom God hath raised from the dead: whereof we are witnesses.**" What do they bear witness to? Jesus Christ is holy, He's just, He died, He's risen from the dead. Peter is attempting to convince these particular people of their particular sins. These people know all the details about Jesus' death. They need to confess it as their own sin.
- When Peter refers to Jesus as "**The Holy One** (vs. 14)," he is applying a well-known title of God to Jesus (Isaiah 29:23, Isa. 43:1-3, Isa 49:6-7, 2 Kings 19:22, Psalm 71:22, Jer. 50:29, Ezek. 39:7, etc.)
- Vs. 16** Faith in the name of Jesus healed this man. This man certainly demonstrated faith by not hesitating to leap up at the mention of Jesus' name. He didn't "test the waters" first. He responded without delay. The result: "**Perfect soundness**" of body. (Sound = free from defect and disease).
- Vs. 17** Peter tells the crowd, "**Brethren, I wot (know) that through ignorance ye did it.**" He has told them "**you killed the Prince of life**" (vs. 17). That's murder. But by saying "**through ignorance ye did it,**" he refers to the words of Jesus on the cross: "**Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do**" (Luke 23:34). In saying this, He reduces the charge to manslaughter. They can now seek refuge in the Lord, just as a man could flee to a city of refuge in the Old Testament when he killed a man accidentally (Numbers 35:25).