

## THROUGH FAITH IN THE NAME OF JESUS

*Act 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.*

*Act 3:2 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;*

*Act 3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.*

*Act 3:4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.*

*Act 3:5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.*

*Act 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*

Peter fastened his eyes on the man. Normally, this beggar was used to focusing on the hands of potential givers. The man was lame but he could see. God wanted him to look into the eyes of a man who had seen Jesus for three years. To look into the eyes of Peter is to look into the eyes of Jesus. “Such as I have give I thee.” What does Peter have – let us together declare: “the name of Jesus.” What is it we have today? Have we begun to rely on other things other than Jesus? I pray we still have only Jesus to give to the world today. Notice the lame man was lame from his mother’s womb. He had never learned to crawl and walk in other words. Nevertheless, the power in the name of Jesus catapulted this man from the lame stage to the running and gymnastics stage. Hallelujah! And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God” (Acts 3:8).

*Act 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;*

*Act 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.*

When asked in by what power or by what name the lame man was healed, Peter stressed the name Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Jesus is the anointed one (Christ); one cannot ignore the one whom God has anointed. Saul and some others tried to ignore and even kill David – but God anointed David. Similarly, in stressing that Jesus is the Christ, Peter was warning the Pharisees that it is impossible to ignore him. They may have succeeded in crippling and killing Jesus, but he is risen from the dead, and had just healed a crippled man. The deeper you bury Jesus, the higher he will rise because he is made higher than the heavens (Hebrews 7:26). There is all-conquering power in the name of Jesus – his great name will not be denied; the name Jesus Christ of Nazareth will demand attention. The body of the lame man at the Temple responded to the name of Jesus for healing. This is because Jesus is God who created

Adam and Eve. In which name did the body of Adam rise from the dust? In the name of Jehovah the creator. In which name did Lazarus rise from the dead? In the name of Jehovah the creator who was manifested in flesh – Jesus!

*1Cor 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 1Co 1:28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are.*

Furthermore, Peter states that Jesus is from Nazareth – the town from which they believed nothing good could come. It is said that some great individuals (great in their own sight that is) regret that they did not come from renowned and respected places. What do you feel when you respond to the question: where are you from? Do you mention your home city or town with pride or some shame? God almighty was happy to put the unknown and despised city of Nazareth with his name – Jesus of Nazareth. There were many individuals called Jesus back then, but only one made the town of Nazareth eternally famous. So everyone who feels unworthy and despised can proudly say, “Jesus Christ of Nazareth”. He is not Jesus Christ of Jerusalem or New York or London, but of Nazareth. There are people who are ashamed of the name Jesus – they look around and whisper the name Jesus. How much more will they be ashamed of Nazareth?

*Exodus 15:26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee (Jehovah Rapha).*

In the name of Jesus is power that lies dormant – we have not even scratched the surface of the incredible power that lies hidden in the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus gives salvation; it frightens away demons; in the name of Jesus is a new heaven and a new earth. How effectively have we used the power inherent in the name of Jesus? The parable of the talents is about individuals who exploited the power in the name of Jesus to varying degrees. Remember that Jesus will hold us responsible for the degree to which we have tapped into and unleashed the power in the name of Jesus.

See how generous the Lord Jesus is in lending his name to one man, who for some reason, did not follow the Lord and the apostles. The apostle forbade him to use the name of Jesus. The Pharisees banned the use of the name Jesus because it threatened their authority; the apostles wanted to ban the name because they wanted a monopoly on the use of the name.

Thankfully, no one can copyright the use of the name of Jesus; the power is available to anyone who has faith in Jesus.

**Mark 9:38** *And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.*

**Mark 9:39** *But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me.*

Thank God no capitalists can copyright and patent the name of Jesus! “The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it (Matthew 8:8, 9). The Roman centurion believed fully in the power of the name of Jesus. The Roman Empire would collapse if the orders of Caesar would not be carried out throughout the Empire. Hence, the Roman centurion believed that just as Caesar did not have to come to Judea for his orders to be obeyed, the Lord Jesus did not need to come to his house for his servant to be made whole.

**Psalms 147:15** *He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly.*