

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** The Keys to a Beautiful Life

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Acts 3:1-21

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1235

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) Acts 3:1-10

i) The result of this miracle was that perhaps 20,000 people came to Christ.

(1) The number of men was about 5,000.

(a) Acts 4:4

(2) If we know anything about worship, then we know that generally there are more women there than men.

ii) This doesn't mention anything about the number of children.

b) On the day of Pentecost, there were 3,000 people who were saved.

c) The number of believers was beginning to build.

i) In a single service, 20,000 had come to our Lord and Savior.

d) In today's message, we will look at three basic ingredients that are the secret to a beautiful life.

2) THE MIRACLE THAT CONFRONTED THEM (ACTS 3:1-13)

a) These people who were saved were confronted with a miracle.

i) The miracle was the healing of a man who had been lame or crippled from his birth.

ii) Acts 3:1-10

iii) When this man was born, there was something not quite right with his feet.

(1) His feet were not made whole like feet should normally be.

(2) As a boy, he never learned to walk.

(3) He couldn't skip, run, or play like the other children.

(4) Later, when other men went to work, there was no work that he could do.

iv) Loving friends would take him every day to the gate of the temple.

(1) As people would come and go to worship, he would cry out for alms to help the poor.

(a) People would drop their pennies and their coins into his tin cup.

(b) Day after day, that was the way he lived.

(2) The gate of the temple was called Beautiful.

(a) It was the Corinthian gate made of Corinthian brass and overlaid with silver and gold panels.

(b) When the sun would come up over the Mount of Olives, it would shine upon the gate.

(i) It would dazzle and almost blind you in its beauty.

(3) The man who was crippled was just outside this beautiful gate.

(a) He couldn't enter because the Levitical law said that a man deformed could not enter past the gate.

(b) He was on the wrong side of a beautiful life.

(i) He was just outside the gate.

v) Peter and John went to the temple and saw this man asking for alms.

- (1) They didn't have any money to give him, but they had something better than silver and gold.
  - (a) They had something we all should have, and that is Jesus.
- (2) They said, "*In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise and walk.*"
  - (a) Acts 3:6
- (3) They took the man by his right hand and lifted him up.
- (4) Immediately, his ankles and feet received strength.
- vi) This man had been crippled for forty years.
  - (1) A forty-year-old man had never walked.
    - (a) Not one step had he taken.
  - (2) Acts 4:22
- vii) Now, he was leaping, dancing, and praising God.
  - (1) He entered into the gate Beautiful, into the temple of God with the people of God, loving God, serving God, and praising God.
- viii) Acts 5:12
  - (1) These were the works, the miracles of an apostle.
- b) God gave the apostles special power.
  - i) 2 Corinthians 12:12
    - (1) In this passage, the Apostle Paul argued his apostolic authority.
  - ii) God gave the apostles certain power to authenticate the message of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
    - (1) These were special miracles wrought by the hands of the apostles to give authenticity to the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- c) In Acts 4, this miracle is called a "sign".
  - i) It was more than a miracle; it was a miracle with a message.
    - (1) There was a sermon in this miracle.
  - ii) It was meant to illustrate an even greater truth.
  - iii) We don't deny the physical miracle, but there is a greater miracle and a greater truth that lay behind the sign.
- d) This man was born crippled, and he represents all of us who are spiritually and morally crippled by birth.
  - i) Psalm 51:5
  - ii) Here was a man who could not walk, work, or worship.
  - iii) He needed a touch from Almighty God, more than just in the physical realm, but in the spiritual realm.
- e) The Apostle John called the miracles that Jesus did "signs".
  - i) John 20:30
  - ii) When Jesus opened blinded eyes, the greater truth is that men are spiritually blind.
    - (1) John 3:3
  - iii) When Jesus unstopped deaf ears, the greater miracle is that people need their spiritual ears unstopped.
    - (1) Mark 8:18

- iv) When Jesus raised the dead, He was giving the greater lesson that men are dead in trespasses and sins.
    - (1) He was talking to people whose hearts were already beating.
    - (2) John 10:10
  - f) When Jesus, through the apostles, healed this man, Jesus was saying the following:
    - i) All of us need a touch from God to live a beautiful life.
      - (1) To walk the walk of God, to do the works of God, to worship God, and to go through the gate of God into the house of God with the people of God to have a beautiful life.
      - ii) He wants to make something beautiful of your life.
  - g) It was a miracle that could not be reasonably denied.
    - i) Acts 3:11
    - ii) It was there.
    - iii) The only way someone could deny this miracle was to close their eyes.
    - iv) They knew the man.
      - (1) For forty years, this man had been begging.
  - h) It was a miracle that could not be humanly explained.
    - i) Acts 3:12
    - ii) Peter and John didn't take credit for the miracle.
    - iii) There was no human explanation for what had happened.
  - i) It was a miracle that could not be lightly dismissed.
    - i) Acts 3:13
    - ii) Jesus performed this miracle.
      - (1) They still had Jesus on their hands.
      - (2) Jesus, whom they denied, delivered up, thought they had crucified, and thought they were finished with, was the one who healed this man.
    - iii) They couldn't get rid of Jesus.
      - (1) Jesus just kept coming back.
  - j) Even if you don't believe in Jesus Christ, you still have Christ on your hands.
    - i) Jesus is still performing miracles.
    - ii) You will be confronted with a miracle.
      - (1) Jesus' life was a miracle.
        - (a) His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension are miracles.
        - (2) There are physical miracles, such as the healing of this man.
        - (3) There are spiritual miracles, such as every Christian who has been changed by the power of God.
  - k) God is a God of miracles.
    - i) He is still changing lives today.
    - ii) There are miracles that cannot be denied.
- 3) THE MURDER THAT CONDEMNED THEM (ACTS 3:14-15)
- a) Peter accused them of murdering the Prince of Life.

- i) They were in the crowd when Pilate asked which of the two men, Jesus or Barabbas, he should release.
- ii) They denied the Lord and chose a murderer to be released.
- b) God arranged it so that Barabbas was a portrait and a picture of every unsaved person.
  - i) Barabbas was a thief; every person without Christ is a thief.
    - (1) If we have not given God the glory and submitted our life to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, then we have robbed Him of that glory that is due to His holy name.
    - (2) We live on this Earth, we breathe God's pure air, we receive God's sunshine and rain, and we eat God's food.
      - (a) God is our landlord.
        - (i) If we do not serve Him, then we have stolen from Him.
      - (b) Malachi 3:9
      - (c) 1 Corinthians 10:26
    - (3) We owe God allegiance, alliance, and the service that is His.
      - (a) If we fail to give it, then we steal from Him.
  - ii) Barabbas was a rebel and an insurrectionist; every person without the Lord Jesus Christ is a rebel against God.
    - (1) When we refuse Christ, it is not just that we miss a blessing.
      - (a) Unbelief is a clenched fist in the face of God.
      - (b) It is rebellion against Almighty God.
    - (2) The crime of the person without Christ is the crime of high treason against Heaven's King.
  - iii) Barabbas was a murderer; we are murderers.
    - (1) Acts 3:14-15
    - (2) We killed the Son of God.
    - (3) When we choose Barabbas, we deny Jesus.
      - (a) It is never Christ and Barabbas; it is always Christ or Barabbas.
        - (i) Matthew 12:30
    - (4) It was our sins that nailed Jesus Christ to the cross.
      - (a) Our hard hearts drove the nails.
    - (5) The people there that day didn't literally nail Jesus to the cross.
      - (a) But if we are not with Him, we are against Him.
      - (b) If we don't crown Him, we crucify Him.
    - (6) In God's court, it was our sins that crucified Jesus.
      - (a) We are implicated in His murder.
- c) Peter accused them in order to bring them under conviction.
  - i) In the sight of God, we are guilty of the murder of God.
  - ii) The same kind of crowd that was in the temple area that day is the same kind of crowd that sits in churches today.
    - (1) People who are religious and little dream of the crime that condemns them.

- 4) THE MESSAGE THAT CONVERTED THEM (ACTS 3:15-21)
  - a) Once they had seen the mighty, miracle-working power of God and had seen their part and complicity in the very death of the Son of God, the stage was then set for one of the greatest evangelistic messages ever preached.
  - b) Jesus Christ is a risen Lord.
    - i) Acts 3:15
    - ii) The death of Jesus Christ is a clearly authenticated fact.
      - (1) Acts 1:3
      - (2) There is more evidence that Jesus Christ came out of the grave than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived.
      - (3) No one who will look at the facts can deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
    - iii) Matthew 27:62-66
      - (1) A great stone was put in front of the tomb.
      - (2) A seal was placed upon the tomb.
      - (3) Roman soldiers guarded the tomb.
        - (a) According to Roman law, a Roman soldier derelict in his duties suffered the penalty of death.
    - iv) On Easter morning when Jesus Christ arose, the stone was rolled away.
      - (1) Actually, the stone was blown away.
        - (a) It was not rolled up the track, but in a separate place, all the way over.
          - (i) Human beings could never have lifted and moved the stone that far.
    - v) The Sanhedrin (the Jewish high court) got anxious and paid the Roman guards to say that the disciples came and stole the body.
      - (1) Matthew 28:12-15
      - (2) They didn't have a court trial to prove what had happened to the body of Jesus because they didn't want to hear the evidence.
    - vi) Jesus was seen by 500 people at one time.
      - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:6
    - vii) Acts 1:3
    - viii) Many of the disciples paid for their testimony with their lives.
      - (1) A man may sometimes live for a lie; no man knowingly dies for a lie.
      - (2) They sealed their testimony with their blood.
    - ix) Jesus Christ is a risen Lord.
      - (1) We are witnesses.
  - c) Jesus Christ is a residing Lord.
    - i) Not only is He alive, but He is present.
    - ii) Acts 3:16
      - (1) In this verse, the word "name" stands for "character" or "nature".
    - iii) Jesus performed the miracle.
      - (1) It was done in Jesus' name, in His nature, and in His power.
    - iv) He is not an absentee Lord.

- v) He is here; He is present.
- d) Jesus Christ is a redeeming Lord.
  - i) Acts 3:17-18
  - ii) This was not done in a corner.
    - (1) It was done exactly as God had said through the centuries it would be done.
  - iii) The fulfillment of Scripture and fulfilled prophecy is one of the greatest proofs of the character, deity, and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - iv) Acts 3:19
    - (1) Because of this, they can be saved.
      - (a) Do you want to be saved?
      - (b) Do you want a beautiful life and to be spiritually healed?
        - (i) Then, you need to repent.
- v) What does repentance mean?
  - (1) The Greek word “repentance” literally means “a change of mind”.
    - (a) You change your way of thinking.
      - (i) Before you are saved, you say that you are the boss, and you have no room for Jesus.
        - 1. When you are saved, you say that Jesus is Lord.
      - (ii) Before you are saved, you say that sin is best.
        - 1. When you are saved, you say that sin is wrong, and righteousness is best.
      - (iii) Before you are saved, you think that you can make it by yourself.
        - 1. When you saved, you say that you cannot do it by yourself; you need the Lord.
      - (iv) Before you are saved, you fall after self, sin, and Satan.
        - 1. Repentance is a change of mind about self, sin, the Savior, and about Satan.
  - (2) Luke 13:3
    - (a) You don’t have any hope of Heaven unless you repent.
  - (3) Have you repented?
    - (a) Has there been a radical, dramatic change in your life where you say you are tired of the old way, you are going the new way, and you want Christ?
      - (i) That doesn’t mean that if you can clean up your life, then God will save you.
        - 1. You cannot clean up your life without Him.
        - 2. You have to be willing for Him to clean it up.
          - a. There has to be a heart attitude.
  - (4) Repentance is a change of mind that leads to a change of life.
    - (a) When we repent, Christ comes in and gives us the power to live the life that we could not live.
    - (b) There must be a time in our hearts and lives when we say that we are tired of the old way, and we want God to work a miracle in us.



- (i) A greater miracle than the healing of that lame man so long ago.
- vi) Acts 3:19
  - (1) This speaks of something beautiful that He will make out of your life.
  - (2) “Times of refreshing.”
    - (a) One translation says, “Seasons of refreshing.”
    - (b) Another translation says, “Better and brighter days from the Lord.”
  - (3) No repenting; no refreshing.
- vii) Have you received the Lord?
- e) Jesus Christ is a returning Lord.
  - i) Acts 3:20-21
  - ii) The Bible has said since the creation of the world that Jesus will come and redeem us.
    - (1) He would go back to Heaven, and then He will come back again to restore everything.
      - (a) He will make it all right.
  - iii) What is this world coming to?
    - (1) It is coming to Jesus.
      - (a) If the outlook looks glum, then the “up-look” is very bright.
  - iv) Jesus is coming, and Heaven has received Him until the time of restitution.
    - (1) Don’t be on the wrong side of the gate; be on the inside of the gate called Beautiful.
    - (2) You can be like this man: leaping, dancing, and praising God when Jesus comes again.
  - v) The first time, Jesus came as a Lamb.
    - (1) When He comes again, He will come as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
  - vi) The first time, He came to redeem.
    - (1) When He comes again, He will come to reign.
  - vii) When Jesus came the first time, they asked, “Where is He that is born King of the Jews?”
    - (1) Matthew 2:2
    - (2) When Jesus comes again, He will come as the King of kings and Lord of lords.
  - viii) When He came the first time, they gave Him a crown of thorns.
    - (1) When He comes again in the restitution, He will wear a diadem of glory.
  - ix) He came the first time in poverty.
    - (1) He is coming again in power.
  - x) When He came the first time, He had an escort of angels.
    - (1) When He comes again, He will come with ten thousands of His saints.
      - (a) Jude 14
  - xi) He came the first time in meekness.
    - (1) He is coming again in majesty.



5) CONCLUSION

- a) Picture yourself on the wrong side of the gate.
  - i) Picture yourself spiritually as a cripple.
    - (1) Unable to walk the walk.
    - (2) Unable to work the work of God.
    - (3) Unable to enter into the worship of God.
  - b) Picture a new life.
    - i) Picture a gate gloriously beautiful.
      - (1) You are on the wrong side of the gate.
      - (2) You cannot enter in without a miracle.
    - ii) Picture the Lord Jesus Christ, who was in Simon Peter that day.
      - (1) Picture Him coming by you and looking at you.
      - (2) Picture Jesus reaching down to you a nail-pierced hand, taking you by your right hand, raising you up, and spiritually giving you a lift that will last and giving you the power to enter in through the gate to the ports of God.
        - (a) That is what this miracle is all about.
    - iii) God wants to give you a new life.
      - (1) He wants to make something beautiful of your life.
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16