

Wednesday with the Word

Wheat Street Baptist Church- Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins Senior Pastor/ Servant Leader

Facilitator- Pastor Carla Burnett

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Title: There is Power in the name of Jesus! Who are you healing?

Do we ever find ourselves in a proverbial rut; stuck, trapped, immobile, and abandoned? Are we ever reduced to helplessness and dependency? I know that most of us in this room tonight may have never experienced these feelings or conditions, and if you are in that number you should be on your feet shouting right now. But for the few of us who have experienced these symptoms, who have felt a sense of lameness and who have lacked resources, and cry out day after day at a beautiful or not so beautiful gate, I have come to encourage and to remind you this evening that there is “power in the name of Jesus”!

Every now and then we encounter situations or circumstances in our own lives or in the lives of others that require our attention as we will see in our text. How do we address the lameness of others or better yet our own lameness? Stay with me friends. I believe that lameness can affect us not only physically, but there are often spiritual and emotional dimensions that **cripple** us as well. Therefore, as we explore the text ask yourselves, how does this pericope inform my day to day living? Where am I in this scene?

In the gospel of Matthew 7:3 in the very noteworthy “Sermon on the Mount” Jesus ask those who would follow Him, why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? The truth is, we all have a blind spots!

May we be blessed by our time together recognizing there is “power in the name of Jesus”!

Outline

- I. A Miracle
 - a. Peter heals the lame man
- II. A Message
 - a. Peter preaches a message of repentance

Lesson Notes

Acts 3:1-26 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. ¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon’s Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. ¹⁷ “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. ²¹ Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. ²² For Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. ²³ Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people.’^[a]²⁴ “Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. ²⁵ And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’^[b] ²⁶ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

