



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- In today's lesson we find

- A picture of sin and salvation

•

- Acts Chapter 3

- Here we find a picture of the sinner.
 - The external world is a reflection of the spiritual.
 - The lame man crouching at the gate and unable to enter it is a type of the sinner's condition.
 - He was not complete,
 - And so is every sinner.

- This cripple is a vivid illustration of the lost sinner in that:

- He could not walk, and no sinner can walk so as to please God;
- He was outside the temple, and sinners are outside God's temple, the church;
- He was begging, for sinners are beggars, searching for

- What a cripple is among men,
a sinner is before God.
- All sin works by **privation.**
 - It shuts up **senses**
 - **It closes the inlets of life**
that were meant to
provide **joy** and **happiness.**
 - That is what mankind had
in the Garden of Eden.
- **Everything the heart could desire.**

- In the Gospel dispensation the Messiah exhibits great power for a great purpose.

- Isaiah 35 predicted it.

- 35:5 The blind will be able to see, and the deaf will hear.

- 35:6 The lame will leap and dance, and those who cannot speak will shout for joy.

- **The man's conduct after the miracle** shows how every Christian ought to act:
 - **He entered the temple** in fellowship with God's servants
 - He **praised** God.
 - He had a **new walk**
 - And a **new outlook** on life.

- Peter used this healing as an opportunity to present Christ and offer forgiveness to the Jewish nation.
- He preached Christ to them and accused them of denying their own Messiah.
- Not a popular message then or now.
(**Acts 4:1-3**)

- Just a few weeks before,
Peter himself had
denied Christ three times.
 - Yet because Peter
confessed his sin
and made things right
with the Lord
(**Matthew 26:75; Acts 3:19**)
 - He like the Apostle Paul
was able to forget his failure.
 - (**Philippians 3:13**)

- **Act 3:17 is most important,**
for there Peter stated that Israel's ignorance caused them to commit this awful crime.
- **Ignorance is no excuse,**
but it does affect the penalty handed out.
- This is why Jesus prayed,
**“Father, forgive them,
for they know not
what they do”**
(Luke 23:34).

- God was now giving Israel one more opportunity to receive their Messiah.
- Peter reminds them of God's promise:

- Isaiah 43:25

I am the one who blots out your transgressions for my sake, and I will not remember your sins.

- “**Blotting out their sins**”
(**Acts 3:19**)
 - The word used here refers to the practice of **writing on tables covered with wax.**
 - The debt is **recorded.**
 - The debt is **paid.**
 - The wax is now **smooth over.**
- Thus **removing every trace** of the debt.
 - This is the way **God forgives sins.**

•

• Let us note
three things

in Peter's sermon.

- (# 1) The crucifixion was the greatest crime in human history.
 - It is a crime that shocks the senses.
- The crucifixion makes us realize the enormity of sin and its consequences.
- Peter is telling his listeners, "Look what sin can do."

- (# 2) Peter tells his listeners that the Holy One they crucified is alive and well.

- And that with the power of the resurrection many O.T. prophecies have been fulfilled.

- Acts 3:18

God announced long ago through all the prophets that his Messiah had to suffer;

- But now the resurrection was proof that he was Lord of life and of death.

- **(# 3) Peter stresses the power of the Risen Lord to forgive that sin.**

- **Acts 3:26**

**Unto you first God,
having raised up
his Son Jesus,
sent him to bless you,
in turning away
every one of you
from his iniquities.**

- Their repentance and forgiveness would be the means of a new peace and joy.
- “Repent, and be converted”.
(Acts 3:19)
- You have been great sinners,
- You have crucified the Lord,
 - And you are in danger.
- Now is the chance for forgiveness.

- **Times of refreshing.**
(**Acts 3:19-20**)
- The word rendered
“**refreshing**,”
means properly
“**breathing**,”.
- After **being exhausted** from
labors, running, etc.
 - It hence denotes
rest, or **deliverance**
from evils of any kind.
- **It is used nowhere else**
in the New Testament,

- Times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.

(Acts 3:19)

- Only God could make that promise.

- “Where could I go but to the Lord?”

- In the East it was **the custom for beggars** to sit at the entrance to a temple or a shrine.
- Such a place was considered **the best of all stances** because when people are **on their way to worship God** they are disposed to be generous to their fellow men.

- **William Henry Davies** was a Welsh poet and writer.
 - Davies spent a significant part of his life as a tramp or hobo, in the United Kingdom and United States,
 - And became one of the most popular poets of his time.

- W. H. Davies,
the tramp poet,
tells how one of
his vagrant friends
told him that,
whenever he came
into a new town,
he looked for a church spire
with a cross on the top
and began to beg
in that area.

- Peter's sermon began with a note of mercy and warning combined.
- It was in ignorance that the Jews perpetrated the terrible deed of the crucifixion;
 - But that ignorance is no longer an excuse for their further rejection of Jesus Christ.

- This note of the **terrifying responsibility of knowledge** echoes all through the New Testament.
- **"If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say 'We see,' your guilt remains"**
(John 9:41).
- **"If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin"**
(John 15:22).

- **"Whoever knows what is right to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin" (James 4:17).**

- To have seen the full light of the revelation of God is the greatest of privileges,

- But it is also the most terrible of responsibilities.

- The obligation this knowledge brings is the obligation to repent and to turn.
- And it is an easier thing to change one's mind than to change one's life.
- But this change of mind is to result in a turning away from the old way and a beginning of the new.

- This repentance will have **certain consequences.**
 - It will affect the **past** as sins are wiped out.
- It will also affect the **future**;
 - As it brings **times of refreshing** there will be:
 - **# 1 Strength in weakness**
 - **# 2 And a rest in weariness.**

- Peter goes on to speak of **the coming again** of Christ.
- He **warns them** that the Crucified One will be returning.
 - **What then?**

- If discouraged by
'Silver and gold have I none,'
- He hears of something more indeed:
'What I have, this I give thee:
in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth
rise up and walk.'
- God's word still has
power to create.
as He created the world.
 - He says,
Let there be light;
and there is light;
 - Let there be life!
and there is life.

- The lame man needed strength,
 - And this is the divine gift of the gospel.
 - “It is the power of God unto salvation.”
 - The Savior makes us able to walk and leap in God’s ways.

- There is in every lifetime one moment of special opportunity.
- No one knows how long the lame man had been lying at the gate; but one day he met his opportunity.

- So the **Samaritan** woman met hers at the well,
 - **Matthew** met his at his table,
- The **Ethiopian** met his in the desert.
- **Success** is to grasp at the opportunity;
- **Failure** is to let it pass.

- In this miracle the power lay not in Peter's hand,
- But in Jesus's name.
 - Only a Divine power could heal the cripple,
 - And only a Divine power can make the sinner whole.

- It is in this scene we see a picture of **the saved man.**
- See how he represents the soul just after **the new birth**
 - Arrayed **in the image of Christ Jesus.**

- We behold the transformation.
 - A moment ago he was a begging cripple;
- Now he stands and leaps with joy.
 - Romans 15:13
**May God, the
source of hope,
fill you with all
joy and peace ...**

- His **first act** is to enter through the Beautiful gate into the temple.
- Let us notice his **gratitude**.
 - Every saved soul should make confession of **what God has done for him**.

- There is a Name which can make us whole again.
- Your soul wants precisely what that poor cripple's body wanted,
 - Power to stand, to walk, to leap, and to utter forth the praises of God.
 - And that power is in Christ, and in Christ alone.
 - Light to the blind,
 - Strength to the impotent,
 - Life to the dead.

- The more you think of it earnestly, the more you will find that life is just what you need.
 - A man whose system is worn out can be patched up for a while by the physicians,
 - But a new infusion of life into it is what it needs.

- Give it that,
or you patch
and prop
in vain.
- This is what Christ
can truly do
for your soul.

- It is all summed up
in the word
"In Him is life."

- Proverbs 12:28

In the way of righteousness is life;
and in the pathway thereof
there is no death.

- That life, God's life,
- He will give to any who ask.

- Acts 3:3

Who seeing Peter and John
about to go into the temple
asked an alms.

- This is the time to believe on that Name,
- To rise up and walk.
 - Does God care for broken lives?
- Let that poor cripple answer.
- Let the Lord's works of mercy answer.

- **John 6:12**

**When they were filled,
he said unto his disciples,
Gather up the fragments
that remain,
that nothing be lost.**

- **Did this foreshadow
His ministry?**

- Our Lord gathered
fragments of food
and
fragments of humanity.

- Note the fragments
 - He gathered
along the way...
 - Publicans,
 - Harlots,
 - Thieves,
 - Prodigals,
- Whatever the world flung out
as worthless
He gathered.

- The lame man sought alms,
- but the Apostles gave him what was better;
- They gave him health.
- Health without money is infinitely better than money without health.

- This typifies to us the Divine method of saving the world.
- The Gospel does not aim directly at improving men's circumstances,
- It aims at improving men themselves.

- And so it is in the conversion of the soul.

"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation."

- Are you a new creature?
- Do you desire to be healed?
- To rise up to leap with joy?
- Silver and gold won't do it.

- Acts 3:6

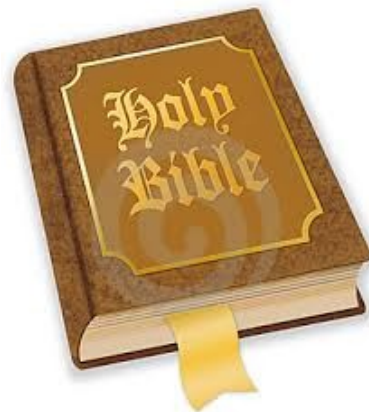
Then Peter said,
Silver and gold have I none;
but such as I have give I
unto you:

- In the name of
Jesus Christ of Nazareth
rise up and walk.

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



- 07-14-2019 Tryon, NC

-