

## Acts 3

### Vv.1-10 Healing and Witness at the Temple

Chapter 3 begins with the hour of prayer at the temple – 3 pm. Symbolically, the gospel moves the community to the very heart of national religious life – to the temple itself.

The Gospel is the power of God, a power that heals, astonishes and for some angers.

The church comes together – and immediately meets the world around it and the misery it contains.

This is the first healing story in Acts. In Luke's gospel we have been told that one of the messianic signs is that the lame will walk. See Luke 7:21

Luke is a great story teller and uses imagery to enhance the drama of the healing – a man lame from birth, helpless and dependent on handouts becomes the man walking, leaping praising God.

Luke uses the Greek word “atenzio” to describe the way in which Peter looked at the lame man- that is, intently, personalizing the encounter.

Though Peter is the one present, it is not Peter who heals, it is Jesus.

Jesus' name is more powerful than money.

Authenticity of the mission of Jesus – proven by the evidence of healing.

Is that rue for us today as well?

### Vv. 11-26 Peter's speech

With Peter's speech, Luke interprets the miracle, proclaims the good news and issues a call to repentance.

He makes clear the healing was God's doing through the power of the name of Jesus.

Once more Peter declares the blame for Jesus death lies with the people but he also says they didn't know any better.

In Acts, Jesus' death is placed firmly on human perversity. For Luke, the cross is a scandalous of the rejection of God's anointed one by those he came to save – a tragic “no” which God overcomes with the “yes” of the resurrection.