

**THE SOVEREIGN GRACE OF GOD WORKING THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, TO  
RESCUE THOSE, WHO COULD NOT SAVE THEMSELVES!  
CH3:1-10**

**ILLUSTRATION**

If you leave Nepal from Kathmandu Airport, and if you sit on the right hand-side of the Plane, and if the sky is clear, you see a beast of a mountain, Mount Everest, the highest mountain on Earth! How big is it? It is 8848 metres high, named after a Welsh man, George Everest who was able to work out it's height!

But, if you are from Nepal, you don't call it Everest, no, you call it "SAGARMATHA", Do you know what that means? "Holy Mother", why call it that? They see it as "The mother of all Nature" towering over all the earth!

You see, if your perspective differs, you see different things! The Welsh feel pride that the tallest mountain in the World, was named after a Welshman! The Nepalese, however, see "The Mother of All Nature" as the mountain that towers over all things!

**THE TWO ROADS LEADING TO THE TEMPLE! V1-2**

Dr Luke records for us that the Church was growing in numbers Ch2:41, now up to 3120! It was also growing in sanctification (holiness living for Christ) as God's people were meeting regularly, and caring for one another Ch2:42-47, and still growing in numbers! But, why hadn't they started to witness as commanded by Jesus Ch1:8? Lets have a look.

How many "roads" to the Temple do you see? Do you see how it is similar to how you see Everest? Luke records for that there were two "roads" that afternoon, the road for Peter and John, and the road for the "man who was lame from birth."

Peter and John were heading to the Temple to pray, and set out around 3pm in the afternoon, to arrive just before the evening sacrifice (Daniel Ch9:20-21), going into the Temple through the gate known as "Beautiful" (v2 + v10), because of it's ornate nature and beauty. The "lame man" (lame from birth and now 40 years old Ch4:22), was also heading to the Temple through the same gate, but not necessarily to pray inside the Temple Courts, but to beg (v2 + v3).

The "lame man" has a number of issues, he was disabled, had been from birth, had to be carried by others (v2), was well known within the Capital City (v9 + 10), and had to beg to survive (v2).

Two different "roads" to Jesus, those who are genuinely seeking His Will and those who are not really seeking Him at all, but just looking to survive this life with the "hand that they have been dealt" so to speak.

**THE TWO REQUESTS OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE! V3-4**

Before continuing, I'd like to raise something about the text in the NIV. Firstly, I love the NIV translation, it's all I have ever really known! I love it, my original Bible will testify to that! I have difficulty transitioning to the ESV (English Standard Version), so, let me just give a simple illustration. In the NIV, IN THESE 10 VERSES, THERE IS NO MENTION OF "ALMS". However, in the ESV, in verses 2, 3 and 10, there is mention of "alms".

"Alms" meaning - (in historical contexts) money or food given to poor people! How can this be?

So, we again encouraging those that are also being "nudged" to please let Ian know as we

transition from the beloved NIV to the growing in love ESV!

How many requests do you see? There is one in v3 and one in v4! One request is from the “lame man” requesting money, because he was begging to survive! The second request in v4 from Peter is to get the man's attention, because Peter has something to offer!

**THE THREE, NOT TWO RESPONSES ON THE WAY TO AND INSIDE THE TEMPLE!**  
**V5-10**

The “Temple” is mentioned 6 times in 10 verses (v1, 2x2, 3, 8 + 10)! The lame man because of his disability is excluded from the Temple, he can only sit outside and beg!

***Four times Luke mentions words describing to “walk v6 + v8 and walking v8 + v9.***

The man is not only healed but he is also forgiven. Luke as this formula of “event, explanation and people receiving eternal life!

Faith in Jesus Christ comes through responding to His Command!  
Luke Ch4:36 – Jesus drives out the evil spirit and the crowds are amazed!

Luke Ch5:9 - Simon's Peter catch of fish, and the companions were left astonished!

Luke Ch5:26 – Jesus heals and forgives the paralysed man and the crowd are left amazed praising God

Luke Ch7:16 – Jesus raises the widows dead son, and the crowd proclaim “A great prophet has appeared among us” they praised God and said “God has come to help his people”.

Is ch35:16 – The lame will leap for joy!

3 Responses! Can you see them? The man v7, the crowd v9+10, but who else?? It is Jesus who responds!!!! ***The promise of healing is the basis on which the challenge to believe is given and restoration is fully experienced!*** The miracle is powerful, sudden and complete! There will be universal restoration one day, when Jesus returns, and this miracle reveals that it can be for now Ch3:21!!

**APPLICATION**

*Jesus' offer, of forgiveness of sins, is the best, GOOD NEWS!*

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