

The Book of Acts

Lesson 6: The Lame Man Healed and Peter's Second Sermon -- Acts 3:1-26

He had been carried to the same gate every single day. Lame from birth, he had never taken a step in his life. The Beautiful Gate of the temple was his office, and his only trade was his outstretched hand. Worshipers streamed past him on their way to pray, and he had learned to read their faces, hoping for a coin, expecting little. On this particular afternoon, two ordinary men stopped, and everything changed.

Peter and John were on their way to the three o'clock hour of prayer. The beggar asked them for money, as he had asked a thousand others. But Peter said something no one had ever said to him: look at us. And then the words that would echo through the centuries: silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk. Peter took him by the hand, and ankles that had never held weight suddenly grew strong.

The man did not simply stand; he leaped. He went into the temple walking and jumping and praising God, clinging to Peter and John while a stunned crowd gathered. Here was a man everyone knew, the beggar from the gate, now dancing on healed legs. And the moment the crowd's attention turned to the apostles, Peter did the most important thing of all: he pointed away from himself and toward Jesus.

Why do you stare at us, Peter asked, as though by our own power we made this man walk? It is the name of Jesus, the One you handed over and denied, the Author of life whom you killed and God raised from the dead, that has done this. Then Peter pressed the truth home: repent, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out. The miracle was never the point. The miracle was a doorway, and standing in it was the risen Christ, calling a guilty city home.

Group Discussion: When the crowd marveled at the healing, Peter immediately turned their attention away from himself and toward Jesus (vv. 12-13). Why is it so important that those who do God's work refuse to take the glory for it, and how can we keep pointing people to Christ rather than ourselves?

Personal Reflection: Peter told the beggar, what I do have I give you, and gave him something far better than money (v. 6). What has God given you that you could offer to someone in need this week, even if it is not what they first expected?

Read Acts 3:1-26

Study Questions

1. Peter healed the lame man not by his own power but in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and later explained that it was faith in Jesus' name that made the man strong (vv.

- 6, 16). What does it mean that the healing was done in the name of Jesus, and what does this teach about where true power and authority lie?
2. Peter had no money to give, but he gave the beggar what he did have, the healing power of Christ (v. 6). What has God given you, gifts, faith, time, His word, that you could offer to others, especially when you cannot give them what they first ask for?
 3. When the amazed crowd stared at the apostles, Peter asked why they looked at him and John as though by their own power they had done this, and pointed instead to the God who glorified His servant Jesus (vv. 12-13). What does Peter's response teach us about humility and about who should receive the glory for any good we do?
 4. It would have been easy for Peter to enjoy the crowd's admiration, but he refused it (vv. 12-16). Where in your life are you tempted to seek credit, recognition, or the spotlight? What would it look like to do your good works quietly, for God's glory rather than your own?
 5. Peter told the crowd they had denied the Holy and Righteous One, killed the Author of life, and that God raised Him from the dead (vv. 13-15). How does Peter describe the identity of Jesus in these verses, and what is the significance of each title he uses?
 6. Peter acknowledged that the people had acted in ignorance, yet he still called them to repent (vv. 17-19). How do you respond when you realize you have sinned, even unknowingly? Are you quick to make excuses, or willing to face your sin honestly and turn from it?
 7. Peter commanded the crowd, repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out (v. 19). What do repenting and turning involve, and how does this command help us understand what God requires of those who would be forgiven?
 8. Repentance is not just feeling sorry but turning away from sin and toward God (v. 19). Is there a specific area of sin in your life that God is calling you to turn away from right now? What would genuine repentance look like in that area?
 9. Peter declared that Jesus is the prophet like Moses whom everyone must hear and obey, the One foretold by all the prophets, through whom the covenant with Abraham is fulfilled and every family of the earth is blessed (vv. 22-26). What does this teach about the authority of Jesus and about salvation being found in Him alone?
 10. Look back across this whole account, the beggar healed, the glory given to Christ, the call to repent and turn. Name one specific way the Lord is calling you to respond through Acts 3, and what is one step you will take this week.

Now or Later

Reflect on these passages: Deuteronomy 18:15-19, the prophet like Moses whom all must obey, fulfilled in Christ; Genesis 22:18, the promise that in Abraham's offspring all nations would be blessed; Acts 4:12, salvation in no other name under heaven; John 14:6, Jesus as the only way to the Father; 2 Corinthians 7:10, godly sorrow that produces repentance leading to salvation