

# Lesson 3: The Lame Man Walks

## Acts 2:42-4:31

Take a moment to bring before the Lord the things that weigh on your mind. If you are worried about something, ask Him to carry it for you and to show you how to handle it. If you are discouraged or disappointed about something, tell Him about it. Whatever your current situation, take some time to talk to Him, and ask Him to meet you with truth from His Word that speaks specifically and directly into your life today.

*“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”*

### The Devotion of the Believers

Read Acts 2:42-47. The summary of the early group of believers serves as an excellent backdrop and introduction to our lesson for today.

*Acts 4:12*

1. To what did the believers continually devote themselves (2:42)?
2. How was the believers' devotion to these things evident in their daily lives (2:43-46)?
3. In John 13:34-35, Jesus gave His disciples a commandment. What is that command, and what are the foretold results? How do we witness the fruit of the disciples' obedience in this passage in Acts (2:47)?

### The Lame Man Healed at the Temple

Read Acts 3:1-10. Peter and John were going about their daily routine, when their path crossed with another's who was in great need.

4. Who did Peter and John meet, and what did he ask them for?

5. What was Peter's response in verse 6, and what happens in the following verses?

Peter and John didn't have the alms that the lame man requested. They had much more!

6. According to Ephesians 3:20-21, what is Christ able to do?
7. Ask the Lord if there is an area in your life where you might be asking God for alms when He is willing and able to do much more. If He brings something to mind, spend some time in prayer, asking Him to do more with it than you could even imagine.

Jesus had performed great miracles during His life on earth, and those miracles did not stop with His ascension. The healing of the lame man is the first recorded miracle performed by the apostles, but it will not be the last.

8. What had Jesus told His disciples in John 14:12-14?
9. According to these verses in John, in whose name are all the signs and wonders to be performed? What is the purpose of the miracles?
10. What was the lame man's reaction to his healing (Acts 3:8-9), and how did the people respond (Acts 3:9-10)?

### **Peter's Second Sermon**

The healing of the lame man at the Temple opened up an opportunity for Peter and John to witness to the people about the risen Lord they served.

11. Read Peter's second recorded sermon in Acts 3:11-26.

12. Consider Peter's words in Acts 3:12 and the words of John the Baptist in John 3:30. How are we sometimes tempted to attribute the power of God to human vessels?
  
13. According to Peter in Acts 3:16, in whose name was the miracle performed? What are some other names given Him in Acts 3:13-15?
  
14. How did Peter establish their need for repentance in the first part of his sermon (3:13-18)?
  
15. What are some results of repentance according to Acts 3:19-20?
  
16. According to Romans 2:4, what leads us to repentance? How does that affect your attitude about feeling convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit?

Acts 3:20-21 refers to the promised return of Christ. When Christ returns, He will fully restore all things. You can read more about this restoration in Revelation 21:1-8 and find hope in His promise.

17. Who did Peter list as those who had prophesied both the first and second comings of Christ in Acts 3:21-24?

The life of Abraham and the covenant that God made with him is recorded in Genesis 12-25. The particular quote in Acts 3:25 is found in Genesis 22:17-18.

18. What had God said in the covenant that He made with Abraham according to Acts 3:25-26? How is that covenant promise being fulfilled in Christ?

The Old Testament and the New are two parts of the same story. I don't want us to miss the continuity of God's story from Genesis through Acts, all the way to Revelation.

**Peter and John's Arrest**

Read Acts 4:1-22.

19. How did the people who heard the testimony of Peter and John respond (Acts 4:3-4)? What happened to Peter and John as a result of their boldness to proclaim the Gospel in the Temple?

The Sadducees were behind Peter and John's arrest. As members of the aristocratic and ruling body, they had great personal, economic and political interest in preserving the status quo. Peter and John and the band of believers proclaiming Christ as the Messiah were threatening their interests. At that time, Rome ruled over the province of Judea (the southern region of modern Israel, where Jerusalem is located) but allowed them to operate fairly independently as long as the Judeans didn't prove to be a problem. The Sadducees knew that if they allowed too much talk of a Messiah or too much hope of a restored and powerful nation of Israel, Rome would put a swift and catastrophic end to the little freedom that Judea enjoyed.<sup>5</sup>

20. After their arrest, Peter and John found themselves before the court. What did the court ask them? What did Peter take the opportunity to proclaim, and who empowered him to do so? (See Acts 4:7-12.)
21. What was the response of the court in Acts 4:13-16? How does that line up with Jesus' words to His disciples in Luke 21:14-15?
22. How did the court finally decide to proceed in Acts 4:17-18 and 21-22, and what was Peter and John's response in 4:19-20?
23. What is the only way that men can be saved according to Peter in Acts 4:12? How do you think that understanding impacted Peter and John's boldness in their response to the court? How does it affect your willingness to be a witness?

---

<sup>5</sup> Polhill, John B. *The New American Commentary: Acts*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1995.

**Prepare for Life**

We are going to consider our own lives in light of the believers' response to the report of Peter and John. Conclude our reading for this lesson: Acts 4:23-31.

24. In response to Peter and John's report, the believers gathered together in prayer and called upon the "Sovereign Lord." What does it mean to you that God is sovereign? Look to the rest of their prayer in verses 24-30 as you consider this question.

25. What did the believers ask of God in Acts 4:29-30?

I am fascinated and challenged by the believers' request. In the face of the grave threat of persecution, they did not ask for protection. They did not ask to be spared. They asked for the Lord to continue to move. They asked for boldness in the midst of danger.

26. How did God answer the believers' request in Acts 4:31?

27. Where do you desire more boldness? In what areas of your life could you use courage in the face of adversity? It doesn't have to be death you are facing, though it might be. We all find ourselves in the midst of circumstances that threaten to make us shrink in fear. What is yours?

28. Take some time to bring those fears before the Lord. Tell Him how it feels to face the adversity. And then, if you are willing, ask Him to fill you afresh with the Holy Spirit that you might find confidence and boldness in the midst of your challenge.

**Lecture Notes: Lesson 3**