



Sermon Summary – April 14, 2024

Testify: Jesus Heals

(Acts 3:1-4:4)

A Need

There was a man over forty years old (Acts 4:22) who had been lame since birth. As a result, he was carried everywhere and had to beg for money every day at the temple gate relying on the compassion of others to survive. His need was money and healing. But he had a greater need - Jesus. Everyone today is like this man. We have many needs, but the greatest is a right relationship with God.

God's Gift

It's possible Jesus walked past this man, and maybe more than once. It hadn't been the right time for the man to receive the gift then. This day it was. As he asked Peter and John for money, Peter responded by telling him he didn't have money, but that he would give what he had – Jesus. In the authority and power of Jesus, Peter told him to get up and walk! Immediately his feet and ankles become strong. The man received healing, but probably more than that – eternal life. For Peter mentions the man's faith in Jesus was the reason for his healing.

The Response to God's Gift

Praise to God – The man walked, leaped and praised God. He tried out his “new” legs and showed everyone what God had done for him. He also gave the glory to God whom he understood was the one who had really healed him.

Testify – Peter told the amazed onlookers the significance of what had happened. Peter was a witness to Jesus (v.15) and so He taught them that although Jesus was God's servant (v.13) the holy and righteous one (v.14) and the source of life (v.15) they had handed Jesus over to Pilate, chosen Barabbas over Jesus and killed Jesus. Peter called them to repent and turn back so their sins would be wiped out (v.19,20). He also told them to obey Jesus because He is the prophet about whom Moses and the prophets foretold.

The Response to God's Power and Human Testimony

Belief – Many people believed when Peter testified about Jesus. On the day of Pentecost about 3,000 people believed. After this miracle, the number of men (or people) was about 5,000. It's important that we tell people about Jesus and how He saved us and changed our lives. When people see a demonstration of God's power, or God's love, they need to be told about God, so they know what they saw or received is from God and not from people.

Rejection – The priests, the captain of the temple police and the Sadducees were annoyed at Peter and John. First, these men were not authorized to teach the people. The Levites and Sadducees were. Second, Peter and John proclaimed Jesus resurrected. The Sadducees didn't believe in any kind of resurrection. They had debated Jesus on this issue (Luke 20:27-38). They rejected the message about Jesus and those who proclaimed it. They threw Peter and John in jail. Today the same responses continue. Some will believe and others will reject the truth. Each person's response is between them and God. Our only responsibility is to testify.