

Living Out Our Faith - Pt4
Acts 3:1-26

V1-10

- Peter and John were both devout Jews; and being devout Jews in accordance with Jewish custom, everyday at 9am, 12pm, and 3pm you were supposed to stop what you were doing and head to the temple to spend an hour in prayer. We read it's 3pm and Peter and John are headed to the temple.
- These two are seen often in scripture together. In **Luke 5:10** they were partners in a fishing business; in **Luke 22:8** they prepared the last Passover for Jesus; in **John 20:3-4** they ran to the tomb on the first Easter Sunday morning; and later in **Acts 8** they would be together once more being sent to minister to the Samaritans.
- Verse 2 - this man is described as crippled from birth, and in order for him to get around he needed assistance. Up to this point in his life this man was dependent upon man's generosity, man's compassion, and man's selflessness, which we all know has a limit. However, there is no limit on God's mercy and compassion (**Lamentations 3:22-24**).
- Verse 3 - it's a typical day in this man's life as he sees a couple of men approach. Little did he know this one event would change his life forever. Peter and John had witnessed Jesus deal with those in need of healing many times. Now it's time for them to put their three years of training into practice.
- Verse 4 - Peter and John fixed their eyes on the man. The word "fixed" can be translated to fasten. This speaks of their sensitivity to the man's plight. Verse 5 - the guy saw that he had their attention and expected to receive something from them, but not what he imagined folks. Often what someone who is in need asks for is not what he or she actually needs.
- Verse 6-7 - Peter tells him, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you." What is it that Peter has now that he didn't have before? In **Luke 9:1** they could heal the sick and cast out demons. But what they were lacking then they now have, and that is the filling of the Spirit given earlier.
- Peter grabs the man and lifts him up and immediately his ankles receive strength. This meant the man's feet were permanently dislocated, which explains him being crippled from birth - he was born like this. Verse 8 - once he realizes that he was healed he begins to jump and walk. He had never done this before. Since he was a child watching as people walked by, and the other children playing, he was never allowed in the temple staying in the court of women because he was crippled. Religion had never done a thing for him as he lay there begging.
- When everyone saw the man it took a second before they knew who he was. Verse 10 - once they realized who it was walking and praising God they were filled with wonder or dumbfounded, in amazement, knowing that this is he who was previously unable to stand, much less walk or jump, but now doing so with joy. All this occurred because Peter and John were transformed into men of...
 1. Consistency - they routinely showed up for daily prayer
 2. Sensitivity - could've passed this guy by but sensed the Spirit desiring to work
 3. Flexibility - we're not here for this but I'll miss my prayer time

V11-18

- Peter, just as he did in chapter 2, uses the miraculous to introduce the gospel. Verse 12 - in his sermon at Pentecost, Peter had to refute the accusation that they were drunk. In this sermon he had to refute the notion that he and John had healed the man by their own power. Whenever God uses people in any way there will always be people who look to them and say, "You're special, you're anointed, you're spiritual." Be very careful; it's in all of us to want recognition and praise. That's why we love it when people speak or know our name. Salesmen also know this so what's the first thing they ask? Your name. Industry understands this, that's why they monogram shirts, imprint pens, and personalize coffee mugs, because were stuck on ourselves. **Isaiah 42:8** reminds us that it's all about God and Him only.
- Verse 13-15 - Peter wisely takes the spotlight off of him and John and places it on Jesus. Here is a man who couldn't even stand up to a servant girl but now with boldness he reminds the Jews of how they treated Jesus. Verse 14 - he tells them two things that all unrepentant people do to Jesus:
 1. Deny Him
 2. Attempt to replace Him - asking for a murderer
- Verse 16 - it's in the name of Jesus that this man is healed, not us Peter says. Peter says I know you did it ignorantly. This is very important for us to know because what may have been done in ignorance God will make sure you make a conscience choice.
- Verse 18 - Peter lets them know this happened not by chance that Jesus interacted with us, modeled His glory before us, displayed His power to us; but this all transpired because it was foretold by the prophets whom you claim to believe.

V19-26

- After issuing the indictment, Peter doesn't leave them without hope, telling them to repent or have a change of direction - a changed heart toward Jesus and your self-righteousness. He says their sins will be blotted out as if they never existed (**Psalms 103:12**). This will cause a revival and times of refreshing in people's lives.
- In today's society, if the church began to be as blunt as Peter concerning evangelism there would be an outcry for therapy and sensitivity training. But if we are not so blunt with the truth then what will happen to people who are deceived? Verse 25 - the people who Peter is speaking to are a religious crowd, a church going crew; yet they needed the gospel too.