

Peter Heals the Crippled Beggar



Ice-Breaker

Describe a time when you found yourself without money.



Scripture Passage

Acts 3:1-10

3 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. **2**Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. **3**When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. **4**Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" **5**So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." **7**Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. **8**He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. **9**When all the people saw him walking and praising God, **10**they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.



Bible Study

1. As the cripple, what would you write as a diary entry for a typical day? When Peter grabs your hand? After the healing?

2. How does this miracle relate to 2:19 and 2:22?



Reference Notes

3:1 *the time of prayer.* The two daily times of sacrifice and prayer at the temple were in the early morning and around 3 p.m.

3:2 *the temple gate called Beautiful.* It is uncertain which of the temple's many gates had this name but it was apparently near Solomon's Colonnade (3:11) on the eastern side of the temple. Beggars would gather about the temple in hopes of receiving alms since charity was a major part of Jewish piety.

3:3-5 Almsgiving was an impersonal act as the giver simply dropped a coin into the hands of a person who was already looking for the next person to ask for help. The man probably simply called out for alms without paying attention to whom he was talking. In contrast, Peter and John broke through his routine by insisting that he pay attention to them. In Christ, caring for those in need is relational. Oftentimes the homeless and poor hunger as much for someone to look them in the eye and relate to them as persons, as they do for food. When Peter did this, the man's expectations for a generous gift must have been raised. It may be that at this point he recognized Peter and John as among the leaders of the band of people who had recently pledged their loyalty to Jesus.

3:6 Silver or gold I do not have. The implication of this statement is: this is not what is truly valuable anyway. To experience life fully is surely more valuable than money, and the healing which Peter was about to do would help this man live more fully. This is but one example of the fact that what Christ gives is far more valuable than what the world gives. ***In the name of Jesus Christ.*** By the authority and presence of Jesus who so often healed the sick, this man is healed. In the name was the power of the person. This was so much so that even those who were not Jesus' followers sought to heal using his name.

3:8 jumped to his feet ... praising God. He makes no attempt to hide his excitement. That he jumps to his feet is both a sign of that excitement and a sign of how complete the healing was, given that jumping takes far more leg strength than simply rising to one's feet (see Isa 35:6).

3:9-10 The celebration of the man draws a crowd that wonders how it could be that he is suddenly healed.

3:10 they recognized him as the same man. This was not some hoax where the disciples brought in a stranger who claimed to be disabled, and then rose on cue. The people knew this man and knew that he had been unable to walk since birth. From this day forward this man's ability to walk would be a testimony to all who had seen him begging for so long.

Caring Time

1. How is Jesus healing some crippled area of your life?
2. Would you do the same thing as Peter did, or would you ask John for a dime? Why? Could God heal through you? Why or why not?