

Lesson 3 – Lame Man Healed

Text: Acts 3-4

Main Characters: God, Peter, John, lame man, ruling Jews

Key Passages:

- Acts 4:15-17 – The Jews knew that the apostles were performing miracles, but chose to ignore them.
- Acts 4:19 – Peter and John asked the ruling Jews to judge whether they should listen to men or God.

Main Storyline:

One day, Peter and John were going up to the temple at the prayer hour (near the end of the day). There was a man at the temple who had been lame for over 40 years (since birth). Each day, he was carried to the gate of the temple called “Beautiful” so that he could beg. When the man saw Peter and John, he began to ask for money. Peter told the man to look at him and John. The man gave them his full attention, believing that they were about to give him money. Peter told him, “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 lifted him up, and immediately his legs were restored. The man stood and walked into the temple with them, leaping and praising God.

All of the people around saw the man walking and praising God. They were amazed because they knew that this man had been lame for so many years, but somehow he had been made well. They did not understand how the man had been healed. The people approached the three men in wonder. Peter asked the people why they were so amazed. He briefly preached to them, explaining that the man had been healed through the name of Jesus Christ. He reiterated to them that many of them and others had, in ignorance, denied Jesus and put him to death. Following his death, Peter said, God had raised him from the dead, and he and John were witnesses of that fact. Peter encouraged the people to repent and be converted to Christ so that their sins could be blotted out. He explained that all of this had happened to fulfill the prophecies of God.

As they were speaking, the ruling Jews surrounded Peter, John, and the previously lame man and put them all in prison until the next day. The Jews were very upset that the men were preaching about Jesus and his resurrection. Despite this, many of the people who had heard Peter were converted. At the end of the day, about 5000 men were part of the growing church.

The next day, the ruling Jews brought the three men before them. They asked Peter and John, “By what power or by what name have you done this?” referring to the healing of the lame man. Peter responded that the man had been healed, “...by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead...” He went on to explain that Jesus was the only source of salvation.

When the ruling Jews saw the boldness of Peter and John and the fact that they were obviously untrained and uneducated men, they were amazed. They also realized that they had been with Jesus. However, seeing the previously lame man standing before them, they could say nothing against them. The Jews conferred privately, realizing that a notable miracle had truly been performed, but not wanting the name of Jesus to spread any further. They decided to severely threaten the men, commanding that they not speak at all or teach about Jesus ever again. Peter and John answered that they needed to keep preaching about Jesus as they had been commanded, rebutting, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.” Finding no way to punish them, the Jews let them go.

Peter and John returned to their companions and explained everything that had happened. They all prayed together and asked God to give them boldness to continue to preach. After they finished praying, the place where they were shook, and they all began preaching with boldness. The believers continued to take care of any other believers who had need, selling their possessions and distributing the money as required.

Lessons/Applications:

- 1.) We must be willing to follow God’s commandments and teach about God despite persecution.
- 2.) Prayer is very important; we must pray to thank God for good times and to ask for help in hard times.
- 3.) We need to be ready and willing to help others who are in need, sacrificing of our own if necessary.