

Get up in Jesus' Name!



GROWTH GUIDE JULY 21, 2024

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 3:1-10

AUTHOR

Luke, a Gentile physician, wrote this book between A.D. 63-70. It's considered to be a sequel to the Gospel of Luke which he also wrote. Luke writes about the birth and growth of the Christian church and covers the 30 years after Jesus was taken up into heaven.

CONTEXT

The Book of Acts begins where the Gospels leave off. Jesus ascends into heaven, the Holy Spirit comes on the day of Pentecost, the church is established in Jerusalem and grows. The believers form a community and devote themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's supper) and to prayer. Each day they worship together at the Temple and as our scripture passage opens, Peter and John have gone to the Temple one afternoon. The Jews observed 3 times of prayer: morning (9:00 am), afternoon (3:00 pm), and evening (sunset). Devout Jews and Gentiles who believed in God often would go to the Temple to pray. Peter and John were going to the Temple for the afternoon prayer service.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Acts 3:1-10. Who do Peter and John encounter? What was the purpose of the man being at the gate of the temple?
2. What did the lame man ask Peter and John for? They could have passed him by in their hurry to get to the temple but they stopped to hear what he had to say. Have you ever passed by an opportunity to share the love of Jesus?

3. Peter could have given the man money but instead he gave him something more valuable. What was it? By what authority did Peter act?
4. Strengthened by his healing, what was the man's response?
5. Before the man was healed, he was not allowed to enter the temple because his inability to walk was thought to be due to sin. Imagine his joy when he could enter the temple like everyone else. What would have been your reaction if you had been healed? What would have been your reaction upon seeing the man enter the temple?
6. A man who asked for something material was given so much more that would impact his life for the rest of his days. Do we ever underestimate God's healing power? Can you think of some examples where you've been surprised by healing?
7. Is there something you need to be healed of? Can you be bold and ask God to heal something in your life that you haven't even entertained the possibility of happening?
8. How can we proclaim Jesus in a way that provides healing for those who may be broken and in need of healing?

ENCOURAGEMENT

God meets us in our broken places
and there we are healed.

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