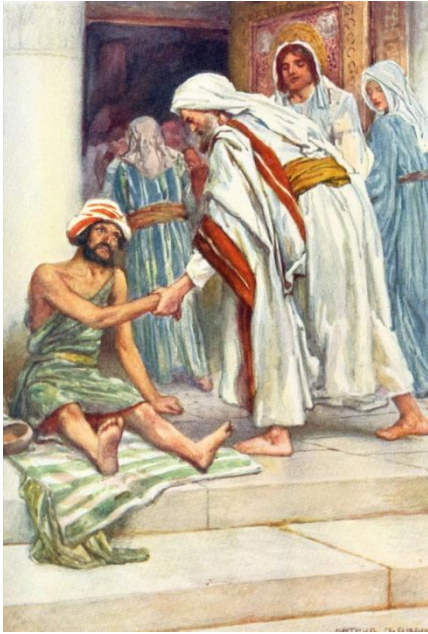


SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 5



HEALING POWER DEMONSTRATED

Scripture Text: Acts 3:1-20

Our last lesson gave a glimpse of the beauty of the newly established church. They met daily in the temple.

The Holy Spirit gave desire and effectiveness in prayer and faith to bring about a miraculous healing. He brought humility which caused them to forget self. He gave them courage and understanding of God's message so they could tell the people plainly about Jesus. This was fulfillment of prophecy. Peter and John spoke in the temple whose leaders fiercely opposed Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE: *Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*

—Acts 3:6

DAILY READINGS:

- Mon.—**Psalm 103:1-14** God, the great Healer.
- Tue.—**Luke 13:10-17** A woman healed on the Sabbath.
- Wed.—**John 9:1-11** Healing of the blind man.
- Thu.—**Mark 1:29-34** Many were healed.
- Fri.—**James 5:13-18** Prayer of faith.

Devotional Reading: Romans 8:18-23 Affliction in view of glory.

Healing Power

Acts 3:1-3 Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer—to unite in prayer with other saints (2:46). It was the **Ninth hour**—three p.m. **A . . . man lame from his mother's womb**—from birth, had never walked— **was carried . . . daily . . . to ask alms**—to beg, his only means of livelihood—**at the gate of the temple . . . called Beautiful**—a richly decorated gate. The man, **seeing Peter and John . . . asked alms**—money given to relieve the poor and needy, a gift of charity.

Look on Us

Acts 3:4-12 Peter, **fastening his eyes upon him with John**— Peter's undivided attention to the man commanded the man's undivided attention toward him. To receive something from God, we must take our eyes off of everything and everyone around us. **Look on us. And he gave heed**, but hoped for nothing more than money. Peter said, **Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee**. It was *us*. Now it is *I*. John could not give what he did not have. Peter gave because he had been given the gift of healing by the Holy Spirit. John had not. All men do not receive the same gifts. Read **1 Corinthians 12:7-10**. **In the name of Jesus Christ . . . rise . . . walk**. With the command came the power. The man's faith took hold. Peter **took him by the right hand, and lifted**—as a baby learning to walk, he needed encouragement to start to walk. **His feet and ankle bones received strength**—a miracle such as Jesus had done. Jesus had promised this (**John 14:12**). **He leaping up stood**—the first time in his life, a great miracle. But that is not all—he **walked, and entered . . . the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God**. In joy and gratitude, he poured out praises to God. He **held Peter and John**—threw his arms around them. The people **saw . . . and they knew . . . and they were filled with**

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wonder and amazement. They ran together unto them . . . Peter . . . answered . . . why look . . . on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? Peter and John wanted no praise or glory because none belonged to them. The power and holiness were all of God.

One of the weak points of human nature is in meeting success. We are prone to take glory that belongs to God. Taking the glory ruins the usefulness. Pride and conceit have ruined many a life that could have been used by God. We have nothing but what we have received. The Holy Spirit gives us love for God and forgetfulness of self, and pride and conceit are eliminated.

Proof of a Living Christ

Acts 3:13-20 The God of Abraham . . . Isaac . . . Jacob . . . our fathers. The God Peter spoke of was the true God, the One of Whom the people knew and believed. Peter wanted it clear because he linked with Him **his Son Jesus**. These people had rejected Jesus. Peter exalted Him equally with His Father. Peter declared, **ye denied the Holy One and the Just . . . and killed the Prince of life**. Then he presented an unanswerable fact—**whom God hath raised from the dead**. To nail it down, he added, **we are witnesses**. To doubly prove Christ's rising, Peter added another unanswerable fact—**his name hath made this man strong**. They themselves were witnesses—**whom ye see and know . . . in the presence of you all**. There stood the man in **perfect soundness** before them. The proof of the miracle was in their own eyes and ears and minds. It proved that Christ was living at that moment. Peter told how the power of Christ had been obtained for the man—**through faith in his name**. Faith reached and grasped Christ, bringing life from Him to the man. **The faith which is by him**. BY HIM—we cannot have this faith by ourselves. It is given by God. Peter preached to them that the things the Prophets had spoken were fulfilled through Christ. **Repent ye**—man's part, to turn from sin, **and be converted**—God's part, to blot out the sins. When people open their hearts to God, God's Spirit will work and bring **times of refreshing . . . from the presence of the Lord**. Here they are once again shown the way out of their sins, **Repent**.

Many things Peter might have talked about. He spoke what was foremost in his heart and mind: Jesus is risen! He is living! He did it for all! Almost any occasion can be turned into witness for Jesus Christ if He lives within us.

There was no need to tell these people that God had worked. They had seen all they needed to bring belief. The fact was more convincing than words. If we show people transformed lives and God's miraculous works, many will believe.

JUST A THOUGHT

A good habit serves the man; a bad habit makes the man serve it.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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