

LESSON #93 – PETER HEALS A LAME MAN AND IS THROWN IN JAIL

Acts 3-4

It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that those who believe are able to be witnesses for Jesus. You can be a witness for Him in what you say and what you do. You must always talk nicely to others and be everyone's friend, even those who may do bad things against you. You must tell others about Jesus when you get the chance and you must love Him and talk with Him in your prayers. This is what continued to make the disciples strong. From now on we will call them Apostles. The word, "disciple" means one who follows, while the word "apostle" means one who is sent. The disciples were now sent out by Jesus into all the world so we will call them Apostles. They had the job of beginning the spread of the Gospel, the Good News, about Jesus.

But God knew that some people would not listen to the Apostles. He knew that people are not ready to believe in Him unless He gives them the Holy Spirit to make their spirits alive again. At his time the last part of the Bible was not written because it would be these Apostles Who would write these books. God wanted the people to know that the Apostles had been sent by Him to tell them about Jesus. So God gave them the power to do many miracles.

Now, one day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer in the afternoon and a man who had been unable to walk since he was born was being carried by his friends to the temple gate. When he saw Peter and John he asked them for some money for that is how he was able to eat, by begging from others. Peter and John did not have any money to give to him. But 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!" Then Peter took him by his hand and helped him up and the man could walk. He ran into the temple praising God as he went. When the people saw him they knew that he was the man who had been unable to walk and they were very surprised as they saw him running about.

Peter saw how surprised the people were so he began to preach to them again about Jesus and how God had raised Him from the dead. He said that it was by faith in Jesus that this man was made well again. He told them that they must turn from their sine and believe in Jesus for forgiveness.

Now the priests heard what Peter was saying about the resurrection of Jesus. They took Peter and John and put them in jail until the next day. But many who had heard Peter preach believed and now the number of the man who believed was about five thousand!

The next day they called Peter and John to stand in front of them and explain what they were doing. Peter told them that only in the name of Jesus was this done and only by believing in Him would anyone ever be saved from God's anger and punishment against sin. The leaders did not know what to do now. They had thought that they had gotten rid of Jesus by having Him crucified but now these men kept preaching about Him and telling people to believe in Him, that He was alive! They commanded the Apostles not to preach about Jesus any more. But Peter and John were not afraid. Peter and John told them that it was more important for them to obey God than to listen to what they told them to do.

They could not decide how to punish them so they let them go. Then the people joined together in thanking God for His goodness and mercy. The prayed that God would continue to help them to speak out boldly about Jesus. And after they prayed the place where they were meeting was shaken and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. And all of the believers kept meeting together and praying and sharing everything they had with one another. What a wonderful beginning for Christ's church!

Memory Verse: "It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that this man stands before you completely healed." – Acts 4:10.

Application: If you are truly serving God nothing or none can stop you!

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Acts 3-4

Jesus is King! All power belongs to Him. He had told the disciples that they would be “fishers of men,” and now they were. Already more than three thousand people had believed in Jesus and had become a part of His kingdom, serving Jesus the King! This did not happen because the disciples were such great preachers, but because God was working in them and in the people by His Holy Spirit. We have called these men “disciples” because they were “followers” of Jesus. From now on we will call them “apostles” which means “sent out”. Jesus has filled them with His Spirit and has sent them out to do the work of His kingdom.

The church continued to grow as more and more people believed. Soon there were five thousand believers in Jerusalem. One day as Peter and John were going up to the temple to pray, they saw a man being carried to the temple gate who had been crippled since he was born. He sat there every day, begging the people who went into the temple to give him some money so he could buy some food to eat. When Peter and John walked by him, he asked them for money. 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!” Peter took the man by his hand and helped him up, and instantly the man was able to walk. He went running into the temple praising God.

When the people saw him, they recognized him as being the man who used to sit by the gate begging for money. They could not believe that he was able to walk. What had happened to him? Peter saw how surprised the people were to see this miracle, so he began to tell them again about Jesus. He reminded them how they had killed Jesus, but told them that Jesus had risen from the dead, and that it was the power of Jesus that had made this man able to walk. Jesus had given the apostles the power to do miracles so that the people would believe that what they said was true. Today we have the whole Bible, all of the things which the Apostles wrote, so we do not need miracles anymore. The Apostles did miracles only so that people would believe their message came from God and that it was therefore true!

Now the Jews had thought that they had gotten rid of Jesus when they had crucified Him. Some of them heard the Apostles talking about the resurrection, and this made them angry. They were afraid that the people would believe it and would believe in Jesus even though He was dead. They did not believe that Jesus had really risen from the dead.

The rulers of the Jews took Peter and John and threw them into jail. They asked them, “By what power or what name did you do this?” Peter said, “It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you completely healed.” Remember how afraid the Apostles had been before and after Jesus had been crucified? Now see how brave they were! Especially Peter who had even denied Jesus! Peter went on, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

The Jews did not know what to do now. They could see that the man had been healed, but they were still dead in their spirits. They refused to believe what the Apostles were saying, that Jesus had risen from the dead and that this was His power that did this miracle. They decided to warn the Apostles not to teach about Jesus anymore.

They commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. Peter and John said back to them, “Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.” You see, it was not just the idea of the Apostles to preach about Jesus. He had commanded them to be His witnesses. Likewise, Jesus commands all those who claim to believe in Him to be His witnesses. We need to ask for His Spirit to give us the same courage which He gave to the Apostles. The Apostles kept preaching, and the believers kept praying together, and the church kept growing!

Peter Heals a Lame Man (Continued)

Name: _____ Date: _____

MEMORY VERSE

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven... by which we must be saved.” – Acts 4:12

APPLICATION

The rapid growth of the early church was due to many things. The most important was that God was working through His Holy Spirit in the Apostles and people who heard their message. The early church also grew and was strong because the believers met and prayed together and showed their love for one another. Remember that Jesus said, “You are my friends, if you love one another.” Ask God for His Holy Spirit for He can make you as brave and as willing to tell others about Jesus as He did the Apostles.

QUESTIONS

Fill in the blanks with the words at the bottom.

1. The church grew rapidly because God was working in the Apostles and in those who heard their message by His _____.
2. As Peter and John entered the temple to pray one day a man who had been unable to _____ since he was born asked them for some money.
3. It was by the power of _____ that Peter was able to make the man walk.
4. Jesus gave the Apostles the power to do _____ so that the people would believe their message about salvation; the forgiveness of sins and eternal life through faith in Him.
5. We do not need or have miracles today because we have all of God’s Word written down for us in the _____, and if we have God’s Spirit in us we will believe it.
6. The Jews were angry at the Apostles because they were afraid that all of the people would believe their story about the _____ and would follow them.
7. At first the Jews did not know what to do so they took Peter and John and threw them into _____.
8. The rulers of the Jews, the elders and teachers, did not believe in Jesus or repent from their sins because their spirits were still _____.
9. The Jews decided to command the Apostles not to teach or _____ in the name of Jesus at all.
10. Peter and John were so brave and filled with the Holy Spirit now that they said they must obey _____ rather than them, and they went on preaching and teaching about Jesus.

jail
Holy Spirit
Bible
God

miracles
resurrection
Jesus

walk
preach
dead

LESSON #93 – JESUS APPEARS FOR MARY AND THE DISCIPLES

Read John 20:10-23

What a privilege to have the risen Lord and Savior appear to you! The next lessons will tell us about the appearance of Jesus to many people. Jesus remained on the earth for forty days before He ascended into heaven. During this time He explained many things to those who would be the leaders of the Church, His body. All of the rest of our lessons for this year lead us to the establishment of the true church of Jesus Christ of which we are a part today! As we see what Jesus commanded them to do, we also will see that He commands us to do the same today. The work of the church is the spread of God’s kingdom on earth so that what we pray for in the Lord’s Prayer comes true every day, “Thy kingdom come, they will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” As the resurrection and appearances brought comfort to the followers of Jesus who loved Him, so it will bring real comfort to those who love Him and believe in Him today!

QUESTIONS

1. As we read all of the Gospels we find that Mary Magdalene must have gone ahead of the other women to tell the disciples what they had seen. What event does Matthew record in 28:8-10? _____
2. Where did Mary Magdalene go after telling the disciples of the empty tomb? _____
3. What was Mary doing at the tomb? _____
4. What did she see as she sat there? _____
5. What did they say to her? _____
6. And what was Mary’s answer? _____
7. Why didn’t she believe that Jesus had risen? _____
8. Who spoke to Mary then? _____
What did He say to her? _____
9. Who did Mary think that Jesus was? _____
10. Why didn’t Mary recognize Jesus? _____
11. How did she finally realize that it was Jesus? _____
What did Jesus command her to do? _____
12. Did the disciples believe Mary now? _____
13. Where were the disciples at this time? _____
14. Why were they so afraid? _____
15. From this example, what does fear do to our faith? _____
16. What did Jesus say to the disciples which is so important to all those who believe in Him? _____

17. Write out verse 21. _____

QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT

What kind of peace is Jesus speaking about here?