

CRIPPLED BEGGAR HEALED

Acts 3:1-26

STRUCTURE

Key-persons: Peter, crippled beggar

Key-location: Temple in Jerusalem

Key-repetitions:

- Jesus' name: (Ac 3:6, 13, 14, 16, 17, 20, 21).
- Temple: (Ac 3:1, 2, 8, 10, 11).
- Actions: Peter and John went to the temple (Ac 3:1); crippled man begged (Ac 3:2); crippled man saw Peter and John and asked for money (Ac 3:3); Peter and John ordered the crippled man to stand up and walk (Ac 3:6); Peter took the crippled man's hand and helped him up (Ac 3:7); healed man jumped, walked, praised God, and held onto Peter and John (Ac 3:8, 11); people ran up to Peter, John, and the healed man (Ac 3:11); Peter testified about Jesus to the crowd (Ac 3:12-26).
- People's actions/God's reaction: people betrayed and denied Jesus, but God glorified him (Ac 3:13); people preferred a murderer to Jesus, but God declared him holy and righteous (Ac 3:14); people killed Jesus, but God raised him from the dead (Ac 3:15); people thought Jesus was a man, but Jesus is the Author of Life (Ac 3:15).

Key-attitudes:

- Peter's confidence in Jesus' power.
- Crippled beggar's dependance on others.
- Beggar's expectation of handout from Peter and John.
- Crippled man's joy for being healed.
- Crowd's astonishment at healing.

Initial-situation:

Jesus ascended into heaven. Then his disciples gathered together to pray in Jerusalem. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus' followers. Peter testified about Jesus and three thousand people believed and were baptized.

Jesus' followers met together every day, praising God and enjoying the good will of all the people. Daily the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Initial-problem:

One day, Peter and John were going to the temple when a crippled beggar asked them for money.

Final-situation:

Peter told the astonished crowd that the crippled man was healed in Jesus' name. He told the people that this was what the prophets predicted, but they and their leaders rejected Jesus; however, God brought him back to life.

BIBLE STORY

One day, Peter and John went to the temple at the time set for prayer, three in the afternoon. A forty year old man, crippled from birth, was at the temple gate begging. The crippled man was put there every day to beg. The crippled man saw Peter and John and asked them for money. Peter and John looked straight at the crippled beggar.

Peter said, "Look at us!" The beggar watched them, expecting to receive a handout.

However, Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, stand up and walk." Peter took the crippled man's right hand and helped him up. Instantly the man's legs became strong and he jumped to his feet. The man went with Peter and John into the temple courts. He was walking, jumping, and praising God.

The astonished people recognized the man with Peter and John. He was the beggar who had sat at the temple gate.

The healed man would not let go of Peter and John. All the people ran up to Peter, John, and the healed man (Ac 3:1-11).

Peter told the people, "Why do you stare at us as if we made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed Jesus over to be killed. You rejected Jesus before Pilate; even though Pilate wanted to let Jesus go. You rejected the Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God brought him back from the dead. We are witnesses of this. It was faith in the name of Jesus that gave this man complete healing.

"I know that you and your leaders acted in ignorance. But this is how God fulfilled what he had predicted through all the prophets. Repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out. Jesus must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to make all things right again. God promised this long ago through his holy prophets. Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on have foretold these days" (Ac 3:12-26).

GENERIC DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

1. What catches your attention in the story?
2. Is there anything in the story that is hard to understand?
3. Who are the main characters in the story?
4. What problems did the characters face?
5. How did the characters face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did the crippled beggar ask for, and what did he receive?
2. How did the man, who was born crippled, receive his healing?
3. How has Jesus healed one or more crippled areas of your life?
4. What can you do for the poor and oppressed with whom you come into contact?
5. Why is God not limited by his people having limited financial resources?
6. What did Peter and John say to the people who gathered around them after the healing of the crippled man?
7. Why should you share how God is working in your life?

LIFE-LESSONS

1. **Limited financial resources does not limit what God can do.** Peter and John had no money to give the crippled man at the temple gate, but they ordered the crippled man to walk through the power of Jesus' name (Ac 3:3-6). God's actions depend upon his power manifested through Jesus' name.
2. **People may reject Jesus; however, God will reveal his greatness.** After healing the crippled man, Peter spoke in the temple that the people rejected Jesus, while God glorified him (Ac 3:13-15):
 - People betrayed and denied Jesus; however, God glorified him (Ac 3:13).
 - People preferred a murderer to Jesus; however, God declared him holy and righteous (Ac 3:14).
 - People killed Jesus; however, God raised him from the dead (Ac 3:15).
 - People killed Jesus, thinking he was a man; however, Jesus is the Author of Life (Ac 3:15).
3. **When people ask God for what they want, God may give them what they need.** The crippled man asked for money, but Peter gave something better, the healing of his legs (Ac 3:5-6). People may ask to solve a small problem, when God wants to give them a whole new life.
4. **People blessed by God should praise him.** The former crippled beggar jumped, walked around, and praised God (Ac 3:7-10).
5. **Individual Christians should take advantage of opportunities to talk about Jesus.** When the people surrounded Peter, John, and the former crippled man, Peter had an audience, and he took the opportunity to talk about Jesus Christ (Ac 3:11-26).

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Role-playing Pantomime:

The storyteller informs listeners that he will tell the Bible story one time. When he repeats the story a second time, four volunteers will stand in front pantomiming the actions of characters in the story.

- One volunteer will pantomime the actions of Peter.
- The second volunteer will pantomime actions of the crippled beggar.
- Two volunteers will pantomime actions of people in the crowd.