

SEEING GOD AT WORK

As we celebrate Youth Missions Sunday, we will take a look at a passage from the book of Acts. God performs a miracle and brings salvation to a beggar. This opens the door for 2000 people to come to faith in Christ. We will also hear from several youth about their experiences of seeing God at work while on their missions.

Acts 3:1-10 (ESV) - Page 886 in Pew Bible

¹ Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Observations

Peter and John went to the temple to pray and they were interrupted by a disabled man who was begging.

Are you willing to be interrupted?

Verse 6 - the man looked to Peter and John, expecting them to give him something

There is POWER in the name of JESUS

Acts 3:16 - "By _____ in his name"

Isaiah 35 describes the work of God's salvation in our lives. The Pharisees would have recognized this passage and that it pointed to Jesus

Acts 4:13 - "And they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

When people look at you, do they know that you've been with Jesus?

Acts 4:20 - "For we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard."

What is your testimony? How have you seen the power of God at work?



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*

Application *for abundant living:*

Read Acts 3:1-10 again. Put yourself in the position of the disabled man and imagine you are the on the ground begging for money. What do you notice when Peter and John stop and look at you? What is unique about them? What kind of sense do you get from them?

After Peter raises you from the ground, you notice that your legs and feet are instantly strengthened. What is going through your mind as you use your legs for the first time in your life. What are you feeling? How do you respond?

Sometimes God doesn't give us what we ask for (alms) but gives us way more (legs). Can you think of any prayer in your own life where you could be expecting something different?

Further Study *for a deeper understanding:*

Read Luke 5:17-26

This is a similar story of a healing performed by Jesus. It was also written by Luke, the physician. Take note of the setting, people involved, language used and reactions.

What similarities do you see when you compare this story to Acts 3? How are the stories different?

What might these similarities and differences be teaching us?

What might God be telling you in your heart today? Take time to listen in silence.

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

When have you had the opportunity to give healing to another person who is hurting?

How have you seen God at work this week?

Read Acts 3:11-26, and take note of all of the benefits that Peter describes when we find salvation in Christ. Which one or two of these impacts you the most? Why?

Is there a prayer request that you have been praying for a long time? What is God telling you as you spend weeks, months and even years praying for an answer?