

# Unstuck: How the Early Church Changed the World

## Lesson 4

Acts 3:1-26

October 3, 2021

### Dancing in Church

#### Introduction

Peter and John met a lame man who sat at the Beautiful Gate, day after day, begging for a few coins. Imagine what this must have looked like: People passing him daily and throwing a few coins at him, ignoring him as he sits there and begs. The irony of it all is that this broken, lame man sat at the Beautiful Gate. Probably not a very beautiful sight. But Peter tells him to “look at us” (Acts 3:4), and everything changes for this man. In these few words, Peter changes this man’s life forever, and the man can’t contain his joy. He stands up and walks into the temple courts, praising God and jumping for joy.

Peter and John knew that Jesus could have a bigger impact on this man’s life than the coins most people gave him. They believed God would show His power in the situation and as a result, so many more turned to Jesus. Do you believe in that power? Are you like Peter and John and expect God to use you to impact people’s lives? Or are you like the countless others who just walked by the man, feeling powerless to help?

***Memory verse: “Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’—Acts 3:6***

Pray and read Acts 3:1-26. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

## What does the passage say?

1. Describe the man at the gate and why he was there. (Acts 3:2)
2. What was Peter's response when the man asked him for money? (Acts 3:6)
3. What happened when the man got up? (Acts 3:7-8)
4. What was the response of the people in the temple court? (Acts 3:9-11)
5. What did Peter accuse the people in the temple court of doing? (Acts 3:13-15)
6. Who does Peter credit with the healing? (Acts 3:16)
7. What did Peter command the people? (Acts 3:19-20)
8. What promises did God make to the prophets? (Acts 3:22-23, 25)

## What does the passage mean?

1. The lame man was overjoyed by his healing. He couldn't help but praise God with singing and dancing. How should we praise God? (1 Chronicles 16:34; Jeremiah 20:13; Psalm 150; Ephesians 5:19-20; Colossians 3:16)
  
2. So many people were amazed by the lame man's ability to walk, but Peter knew that faith doesn't come from seeing miracles. From where does our faith come? (Romans 10:17; Ephesians 6:23-24; 1 Timothy 1:14-16; Hebrews 12:2)
  
3. Jesus used miracles when He was alive and continued to use them after His death. What was the purpose of the miracles? (Luke 7:12-14, 16; John 10:37-38, 20:30-31; Acts 2:22)

4. The lame man just wanted a few coins from Peter, but instead, he was healed and made new. When we accept the gift of salvation, what happens to our spiritual lameness? (Ezekiel 11:19-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:9-10; 1 Peter 1:3-4)
  
5. What Jesus had started to do in person, He continued in those that believed in Him—after His death and even today. How does God use those who believe in Him? (Matthew 5:6, 28:19-20; John 14:12; Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 13:21)

### **Applying the passage**

1. The lame man accepted his brokenness as normal. What are the broken areas of your life that you accept as normal?

2. Do you take time to praise God for what He has done and what He is doing to make you new? What is one amazing thing God has done for you this week to do that?

3. Do you allow God to use you? Do you listen when He calls you to serve Him? Write a prayer asking God to use you for His purposes this week.