

### ACTS 3

vs. 1-10

Peter and John went up at 3:00 p.m. for the Jewish time of prayer to the temple. They were met by a crippled man (crippled from birth) who asked for a monetary gift (this one of the ways the Jews provided for their own). Peter got the mans attention and told him that he had nothing of monetary value to give, but that the man was to rise and walk by the power of Jesus Christ. Peter pulled the man to his feet, and the man was able to walk and he went around excitedly, praising God. People in the temple area, who recognized him, were amazed and wondered what had happened.

vs. 11-26

The beggar clung to Peter and John while a crowd gathered. Peter told them that they were not to be surprised. It was by the power of God, who was glorifying Jesus Christ, whom those people had crucified; that the man was healed.

Peter went on to say that the people had been the means of God fulfilling His prophecy and plan. These people now needed to turn to God, feeling remorse for their sins and start living for God (repentance) so that they might have life when Christ returns.

Peter declared that Jesus was the prophet that God had promised and that by listening to Jesus alone, could people have life. Jesus had come first to the Jews to return them to God.

## ACTS 4

vs. 1-22

The priests, Sadducees (religious leaders who do not believe in the resurrection) and the captain of the temple guard came during Peter and John's oration. They had Peter and John arrested because of their teaching of the resurrection. In spite of the arrests, many more believed and there were now over 5,000 men who had accepted Christ!

The religious leaders gathered the next day and had Peter and John brought in for questioning. When asked how they healed the man, Peter responded. He stated that if they had been arrested for an act of kindness, then they should know that it was only by the power of Jesus Christ (whom the leaders had rejected) and was now the only source of salvation.

The leaders were amazed at the courage of Peter and John. They realized that these were just ordinary businessmen who had, had no "theological" training. There was little they could do to argue, however, for the healed man was standing right there as evidence of the power that Peter and John spoke of.

The leaders (called the Sanhedrin-- a group of 70-72 men) asked Peter and John to leave while they further discussed the matter. They decided to warn them not to preach any more in Jesus' name; for there wasn't anything else they could really do.

They called Peter and John back in and warned them. Peter responded that God was the one who had called them to testify about Jesus and that they would continue to do so. The Sanhedrin tried to warn further, but then released them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened.

vs. 23-31

Peter and John returned to the other Christians and informed them of the warnings. The people then prayed, remembering that God had spoken in Psalm 2:1,2 that men would try and thwart the plans of God. They remembered how they had seen such attempts and now asked the Lord to give them boldness and to continue to demonstrate His power and in so doing, verify their message.

When they finished, God shook their meeting place and allowed the Holy Spirit to work powerfully in their lives as they continued to testify of Jesus boldly!

vs. 32-37

The demonstration of the power of God continued to draw the early Christians closer. They provided for each other as the apostles continued to testify of the resurrection of Jesus. There were people who even sold lands and houses and brought the proceeds to the apostles for distribution among the needy. One example was Joseph of Cyprus (also known as Barnabas-- Son of Encouragement).

## ACTS 5

vs. 1-11

Ananias and his wife, Sapphira were Christians. They decided to do as others had done and sell some of their property and give it to the apostles for distribution. The only problem was that they lied about how much they were giving (they said 100% when it really

wasn't). Because of their lie, Ananias was struck dead, when confronted of his sin by Peter and then Sapphira died 3 hours later when she was confronted with her sin.

Those who heard of what took place, were taken with great fear.

vs. 12-16

The apostles continued to heal by the power of God. The Christians would meet in one portion of the temple, and the other people would leave them alone, even though they highly respected the Christians.

More and more people became Christians. People from Jerusalem and the surrounding towns brought their sick out into the streets with the hope that Peter might walk by and his shadow might touch the sick and heal them.

vs. 17-42

Some of the religious leaders had the apostles arrested, because they envied their popularity and the respect that the people had for them. The Lord released the apostles during the night and instructed them to return to the temple and to continue to preach about Jesus.

When the Sanhedrin (group of 70-72 religious leaders) gathered and called for the apostles to be brought out, they discovered their escape. Someone then came and told them that those who had been arrested were back in the temple preaching.

The Sanhedrin had the apostles quietly and peacefully brought to them and questioned why they had persisted to teach about Jesus, when they had been warned not to. Peter replied that they were under orders of God and had to obey Him, rather than the Sanhedrin (who were supposed to be doing the will of God). Peter went on to say that the Sanhedrin was guilty for putting God's Son to death.

The Sanhedrin was furious and ready to put them to death. Gamaliel (a Pharisee-- one who believes in the resurrection) stood up and warned the other members of the Sanhedrin to consider carefully, lest they act against God's will. He felt that if the apostles were simply a group of men on their own-- their cause would die out; if it was from God-- there would be nothing that could stop them.

The Sanhedrin decided to have the apostles whipped, they then warned them to cease their teaching and released them.

The apostles felt privilege for being able to suffer for the sake of the Kingdom in that manner and they continued on teaching about Jesus Christ at the temple and in homes.

STUDY GUIDE

STUDY GUIDE

ACTS 3

1. Where were Peter and John going when they met a lame man?
2. Why was the crippled man there?
3. Summarize how the man was healed.
4. How did the man respond?
5. How did the people respond?
6. What did Peter do when he saw a crowd gathering?
7. How does Peter describe Jesus?
8. Who does he say is responsible for Jesus' death and why?
9. How were the peoples sins to be forgiven?
10. Which prophets foretold this day?
11. Who had God made a covenant with?

BONUS:

1. State each way God was glorified by the healing.
2. State the importance of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
3. Outline Peter's sermon.

STUDY GUIDE

ACTS 4

1. Why were the priests and their cohorts disturbed?
2. Did Peter and John's imprisonment keep people from believing their message? Explain.
3. How does Peter describe Jesus?
4. What do we learn about salvation?
5. How were Peter and John regarded at the trial?
6. What command did they give to Peter and John and what was their reply?
7. How long had the lame man been that way?
8. For what did the Christians pray for, after hearing of the events?
9. How do you know God answered their prayer?
10. How is the unity of the Christians described by Luke?
11. Why were there no needy persons among them?

BONUS:

1. Summarize Peter's defense.
2. Give 2 examples of times when we need to be bold.
3. How can the Church care for the needy, today?

STUDY GUIDE

ACTS 5

1. Who sold a piece of property?
2. What did they do with the money?
3. What was Ananias' sin?
4. What happened to him?
5. What happened to Sapphira?
6. Why were the apostles highly regarded?
7. Why did the high priest and associates arrest the apostles?
8. What then did the Lord do?
9. Why had the apostles been disobedient to the high priest?
10. What did Gamaliel suggest to be done?
11. After being flogged, why did the apostles rejoice?
12. When did they preach and teach?

BONUS:

1. How do people lie to the Holy Spirit today?
2. What purpose do you think the miracles performed?
3. Is it ever right to disobey the law of the land? (see Romans 13)  
Explain.