

THE STORY CONTINUES...

A Healing at the Temple

Acts 3

“Repent then and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord and that he may send...Jesus.” Acts 3:19, 20

1. Imagine that you are the man who is healed in these verses. Retell this story from his point of view.

2. Most people going to the temple probably ignored the crippled beggar. What is unusual about how Peter and John respond to him? How do you think their response makes the beggar feel?

3. What would have satisfied the beggar? How does the value of what the beggar requests compare with what he actually receives?

4. Describe the following reactions:
 - A. The beggar after he is healed.

 - B. The people at the temple to the healed man.

 - C. Peter to the people at the temple.

5. Think about where and when this healing takes place and who the onlookers are. What is God’s larger purpose in this miracle?

6. List the names and descriptive phrases that Peter uses for Jesus in this chapter. What do you think these descriptions of Jesus would mean to Peter’s audience? What do they mean to you?

7. Pick a verse or phrase that sums up the message of Peter's words in verses 12–26.

8. Twice Peter tells his hearers to turn to God. Considering that Peter is addressing people who are at the temple for the purpose of praying, what does this imply about their prayers? Isaiah 29:13a

9. How is the crippled beggar a picture of the Israelites who Peter addresses that day? For example, how is the beggar's physical condition like Israel's spiritual condition? What does God do for the beggar? What does God want to do for Israel?

10. Be honest—what would you really like God to do for you? Meditate on the apostle Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16–19 and compare what God desires to give you with what you want from him.