

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 08.30.2020

HEALING ON SOLOMON'S PORCH! – ACTS 3:9-26

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Ray tells us **"Don't Look at the Instrument God Uses. Keep Your Eyes On The Lord Himself! Here in Acts chapter 3, this man who was lame and begging alms held on to Peter and John - Since he could walk, it was not for support. Perhaps it was from a combined sense of fear and surprise as his legs began to receive strength to walk. When you encounter the supernatural it is common to begin to tremble. God is Holy, Awesome and its an awesome thing to be in His presence. This man had the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through his healed body! An instant Huge crowd ran to see the man, as it happened on Solomon's Porch next to the Temple itself! When Peter saw it, he responded to the people and Peter wisely too advantage of the gathering crowd to point them to Christ. Peter knew the miracle itself brought no one to Jesus, it merely aroused their interest.** Pastor Ray gave us a modern-day example of a miracle right here on Solomon's Porch. There was a woman who was healed recently of a mass on her ovary! Here at Maranatha! The Doctor was going to do surgery and Pastor Ray and Daniel prayed for her. She went to the Doctor and he said, "what did you do, the mass is gone." A miracle to testify of Jesus power! Praise God! The miracles point to Jesus to tell us that God is alive and well and able to heal. God hears and answers prayer and this gives us opportunity to share with our friends and help lead them to Christ. Peter know that though greatly Amazed, the crowds were not yet Saved. Why look so intently on us, as though by our own power or godliness we made this man walk? Unfortunately, some healing evangelists give the impression that as a result of their righteousness or holiness that wonderful miracles happen. People often relate the instrument with the miracle, but its God, not us! Peter says We Are Nothing! This is a work of God you are seeing in response to faith He has given. Be careful not to receive credit or glory for what God has done! **We must Always Take Advantage Of Answered Prayer Or Miracles To Preach Jesus.** Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What stood out or spoke to you most from Pastor Ray's message this weekend?
2. Do you find it easier to discuss spiritual things with people you know or with strangers? Why do you think this is?
3. In what circumstances is it easy for you to share God's love with others? In what circumstances is it difficult?

We are called to tell others what Jesus has done for us. And it is Jesus who empowers and calls people to Himself. We can't fail if we, like the early church, are obedient witnesses and allow God's power to work through us.

## Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

By allowing the Holy Spirit to work through them, Peter and John met this man's physical and spiritual needs. They didn't give him money; they gave him new life. In response, the healed man glorified God, not Peter and John. The people recognized the beggar, and they were filled with wonder and amazement. This provided Peter another opportunity to share the gospel.

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 3:8-13**

## *Prepare! in 2020*

1. What happened when the man responded to his miraculous healing? (3:8-10) Why?
2. How did the people feel about what had happened to the crippled beggar? (3:9-10)
3. When have you witnessed God's miraculous healing power at work?
4. Why did a beggar hold on to Peter and John? (3:11)
5. Where were the people in the crowd assembled? Why? (3:11)
6. What did Peter do in response to the gathered crowd? (3:12)
7. To whom did Peter attribute the power for healing the beggar? (3:13-15)

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 3:13-26**

1. What were the highlights of Peter's sermon? What facts about Jesus did he mention (vv. 13-16)? Restate verse 16 in your own words.
2. What might have happened if Peter and John had failed to glorify God for the miracle He performed (v. 13)?

Peter and John had a chance to claim credit for the healing, but instead insisted that it was faith in Jesus' name that made this man strong. Had they claimed credit, they might have avoided the persecution that awaited, but they would have lied in the face of God and witnesses, and any chance to share the gospel would have dissipated.

3. What did Peter encourage the listeners to do in response to his teaching?
4. How has repentance and turning to God brought "times of refreshing" (v. 20) to you? How can that be used as a means of encouraging others to come to Christ?

In verse 17, Peter began his invitation to respond to Christ. The people had rejected Christ and refused to put their faith in Him. They were mistaken in their view of who He was. They had ignored the signs and wonders that pointed to His deity and denied that He was God who came to save. Therefore, the people must repent and turn back. Peter called them to change their minds about who Jesus is and to turn to Him in faith.

5. What does Jesus as "the Author of life" (v. 15) mean to you? What impact does this have on your evangelism?

### **Applying God's Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Repentance is more than being sorry. It describes the idea of literally turning around going a new direction. It is a Word of Hope – You can be Right with God! "And be converted" New Life! It is more than "turning a new leaf" it is being a "new creation" Its resurrection from the dead. I was dead in trespasses and sins and now I have been given New Life in Christ!**

1. Peter witnessed boldly for Christ both in actions and words. Do you see yourself as a bold witness for Christ? Why or why not? How does a person become a bold witness?
2. How might we as a group encourage one another to share the gospel with others?

## ***Prepare! in 2020***

PRAYER - Close in prayer, thanking God for His power at work, transforming us into Jesus' image and working through us to bring more people to Him. Give your group members the opportunity to voice their own prayers of gratitude and praise as they reflect on the mission God has given us and the promised Holy Spirit who empowers us to carry it out..

***" Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Cor. 5:17)***