

HARASSMENT FOR HEALING A LAME MAN

Lesson Aim: We must repent and be converted before we can be citizens in Christ's Kingdom.

Suggestion: Have the students read the Scriptures and answer the questions in the student lesson; then ask the following questions for class discussion.

How did the lame man get healed? 3:4-7, 16

Peter fastened his eyes on the lame man begging for money and told him, "Look on us." When the man looked, he expected some money, but Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I will give to you." Then he told him "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." The man had faith in Christ and leaped up with Peter's assistance. Whatever the physical ailment was that impaired the man, it was taken away. The unused muscles of the feet and the ankle bones were strengthened that very moment. The man received the necessary coordination to walk and to leap his way into the temple, praising God. Conversion is immediate and a complete change is like this miracle (2 Cor 5:17).

How did Peter witness to the people that wondered how this miracle was done? 3:12-26

Peter's message had two main points. First, he told them that they had rejected their Messiah and killed the Prince of life, but God raised Him from the dead. It was by faith in His name that this man was made whole. This miracle served as a window of what life will be like in Christ's Kingdom. Second, he told them to repent of their sins so they would be blessed and refreshed in Christ's Kingdom. We, too, must have faith in Christ to be converted so we can enjoy the blessings of His Kingdom.

Why were the Sadducees grieved with Peter and John? 4:1-4

The Jewish leaders were grieved with Peter and John because they preached in the temple that the resurrection of the dead was through Jesus. The Sadducees were in charge of the temple and they did not believe in the resurrection. Since it was evening, they put them in jail for the night. However, many had heard them throughout the day and about 5,000 men believed their message about Christ. He has the power to resurrect us to be in His Kingdom.

How did the religious leaders underestimate Peter and John? 4:5-12

They tried to intimidate the disciples by having the high priests and other important officials in the meeting. Then they asked the disciples what authority they had for preaching in the temple. They did not expect that they would claim that they had Jesus' authority to preach in the temple, but they were wrong.

Peter's answer was bold and precise. "The lame man was healed by the very One you crucified, but God raised Him from the dead. Jesus was the stone which the builders (the Jews) rejected, but He became the cornerstone (Messiah) of God's building. Jesus is the only Savior who can save you" (4:10-12). His boldness was from the Holy Spirit (4:8). When we are converted, we can be filled with the Spirit to speak boldly for Jesus.

What was the only thing the religious leaders could do to Peter and John? 4:18, 21

They simply commanded them not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus. When Peter and John said that they had to speak the things that they had seen and heard, the leaders threatened them, but let them go. They dared not punish them, because 5000 converts knew the lame man was healed and the religious leaders could not deny it. God will use new converts that are united to defeat unbelievers.

What did the believers do when the religious leaders threatened Peter and John? 4:23-31, 33

The believers asked God to give them boldness to speak His word. God answered by shaking the place and filling them with the Spirit. Then they spoke the word of God about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great boldness. All converts can be bold to witness for God, if they sincerely pray for it.