

Peter Healed a Beggar

BIBLE PASSAGE: Acts 3:1-10; 4:5-31

MAIN POINT: In Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who could not walk.

KEY PASSAGE: Philippians 2:13

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What does the Holy Spirit do? The Holy Spirit helps Christians follow Jesus.

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One afternoon, Peter and John—two of Jesus' followers—went to the temple. It was time to pray. When they got there, Peter and John saw a man sitting by a gate. The man could not walk. Every day, the man's friends carried him to the temple, where he sat outside. As people entered the temple, they walked by the man, and the man asked them for money since he could not work.

Peter said to the man, "Look at us." The man looked at Peter and John, expecting them to give him something.

Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you, but I will give you what I do have." Then Peter said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!"

Peter reached out and helped the man up. All of a sudden, the man's feet and ankles were strong. He could walk! In fact, the man leaped around! He went into the temple with Peter and John, and he praised God.

The people in the temple saw the man. Wasn't this the man who sat by the gate outside the temple every day? The man who asked for money because he couldn't walk? Yes, it was the man! And he was healed! How could such a wonderful thing happen? The people were amazed at what had happened.

The next day, the religious leaders got together. They asked Peter and John, "How did you heal this man? By what power or in what name did you do this?"

Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit. He said, "We want all of you to know that this man was healed by the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth. You nailed Jesus to a cross, but God raised Him from the dead. It is because of

Him that this man is healed!"

Peter told the religious leaders that they rejected Jesus because they thought He was not important, but He is the most important One of all.

The religious leaders were amazed, and they didn't know what to say. They ordered Peter and John to never preach or teach in the name of Jesus again.

Peter and John said, "We cannot be quiet. We must tell people about what we have seen and heard." The religious leaders had no reason to punish Peter and John, so they let them go. Peter and John met with other believers and prayed that God would give them power to speak boldly and without fear.

Christ Connection: After Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave the disciples power to begin working. With the power of Jesus' name, Peter healed a man who was lame. Not even the religious leaders could stop Jesus' followers from sharing the good news about Jesus.