

THE MAN AT THE BEAUTIFUL GATE

Acts 3:1-26; 4:1-31.

LESSON 117 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15).

BIBLE TEXTS

Acts 3:1-26;

1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

17 And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

18 But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.

19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

24 Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.

25 Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.

26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Acts 4:1-31

1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is

manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.

17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

NOTES

The Beautiful Temple

It is three o'clock in the afternoon in the City of Jerusalem, and time for the Jews' evening sacrifice, when they offer something to God. We see two men walking toward the Temple at this hour of prayer. We recognize them as Peter and John and we follow them, in our imagination.

As we near the Temple, we see that it is a very beautiful church. All around the outside are the porches, which are covered walks, separated by rows of large pillars or posts. The floors are of marble of many colours. The pillars are so large that three men can scarcely stretch their arms so as to meet around them. Some of the pillars are one hundred feet high. Along the walls we see seats for people to sit on, and all day long the people rest on the benches or move about between the pillars.

The Beautiful Gate, which leads to the Temple is made of dazzling brass, more costly than silver and gold, and it is very richly decorated. The double doors to this gate are so heavy that twenty men are needed to open and close them.

The Lame Man

We go with Peter and John as they make their way to that Beautiful Gate. Here they stop. Let us imagine that we are now close enough to hear what Peter is saying: "Look on us." We see that he is talking to a lame man sitting near the Beautiful Gate. For many, many years this poor crippled man has been carried to the Temple gate. Day after day he has been sitting there begging for money from those who come to the Temple. He is now over 40 years of age, but has never walked. What a sad life he has had!

He looks up at Peter. This man will give me a piece of money, he hopes. But no! For an instant, Peter disappoints him by saying, "Silver and gold have I none." But wait! Peter has more to say: "Such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

Healed

Then Peter takes hold of the right hand of the lame man and lifts him up. The feet and ankles of the helpless man received strength. For the first time in his life he stands alone! He walks! He leaps! He goes into the Temple with Peter and John, praising God as he enters! The happiest day of his life! No more need he be carried about; no more begging for money, for he is healed! All through the power of God.

The people in the Temple know the man who is healed. They all likely turn to see and listen as he praises God. For many years they probably had passed by this man as he sat at the gate and begged, and many times had dropped a coin into his hat or lap. Now he is walking and jumping. What has happened? They cannot understand!

Let us again imagine that we follow as the three men walk out on Solomon's porch. The man who has been healed walks between his newly found friends, Peter and John. He need not hold on to them, for he is now able to walk, but perhaps in order to show his love and thanks he is holding their hands. All the people follow us out on the porch. They stand and wonder. They cannot believe their eyes, but there before us stands the man whom God has healed.

Peter's Sermon

Peter must speak to the people. He asks them why they look so hard at John and himself, as if they had made the man to walk. Then he preaches a wonderful sermon to the people that day at the Temple. He reminds them that they had caused Jesus to die on the cross. But he tells them that Jesus has risen again from the grave. He

says that it is through faith in that same Jesus, that the lame man is healed. He tells them to repent of their sins and be saved. He also tells them that Jesus has gone to Heaven but is coming back to earth someday.

As Peter preached to the people, the captain of the Temple – who was perhaps a policeman – and the priests and others took Peter and John and locked them up in a jail for the night. They did not want Peter to preach about Jesus. The next day the high priest asked them by what power they had made the sick man well. Peter told them that it was through the name of Jesus Christ. Then the officers told Peter and John not to speak or to teach in the name of Jesus. But that made no difference to these men of God, for Peter and John answered, saying, “Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye” (Acts 4:19). And they kept right on telling many people about Jesus, and a great number believed on Jesus and were saved. And the officers too, knew that the disciples had been with Jesus. They saw the healed man stand before them, and they could say nothing against it.

The Power of God

How was Peter able to say to the sick man, “Rise up and walk”? Was it because he had seen Jesus heal the sick? At one time Jesus took hold of the hand of Peter’s wife’s mother, when she was sick with fever. Jesus lifted her up and the fever left her (Mark 1:30, 31). It was not only because Peter had seen Jesus do these miracles but Peter was able to do this because he had the power of God with him. He had been saved and sanctified and he was one of those who were in the upper room when the baptism was given. He had received the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost. Jesus had told the disciples that when the Holy Ghost came they should receive power to work for Him. Now Peter had that power and he was using it, too!

Jesus took care of Peter and John and would not let the officers hurt them. The officers let Peter and John go and they returned to their brothers and gave thanks to God. Jesus will always take care of His people. No one who loves Him, not even a little child, is forgotten by Him. Let us try to live every day so that others may say of us that we, too, have “been with Jesus.”

QUESTIONS

1. What did the lame man ask of Peter and John? Acts 3:3.
2. What was Peter’s reply? Acts 3:6.
3. Tell what happened then. Acts 3:7, 8.
4. Was it through any power of Peter that the man was healed? Acts 3:12-16.
5. What did the captain of the Temple do to Peter and John? Acts 4:3.

GOD BE IN MY HEAD

**God be in my head,
And in my understanding;**

**God be in my eyes
And in my looking;**

**God be in my mouth
And in my speaking;**

**God be in my heart
And in my thinking;**

**God be at my end,
And at my departing.**

LESSON RESOURCES

TITLE

THE MAN AT THE BEAUTIFUL GATE

Lesson 117

Acts 3:1-26; 4:1-31

There Is Power In The Blood

WATCH & PRAY 35



s. s. d' . d' . d' . d' . d' : m' . m' . r' :-:

s. s. r' . r' . r' . r' . r' : f' . f' . m' :-:

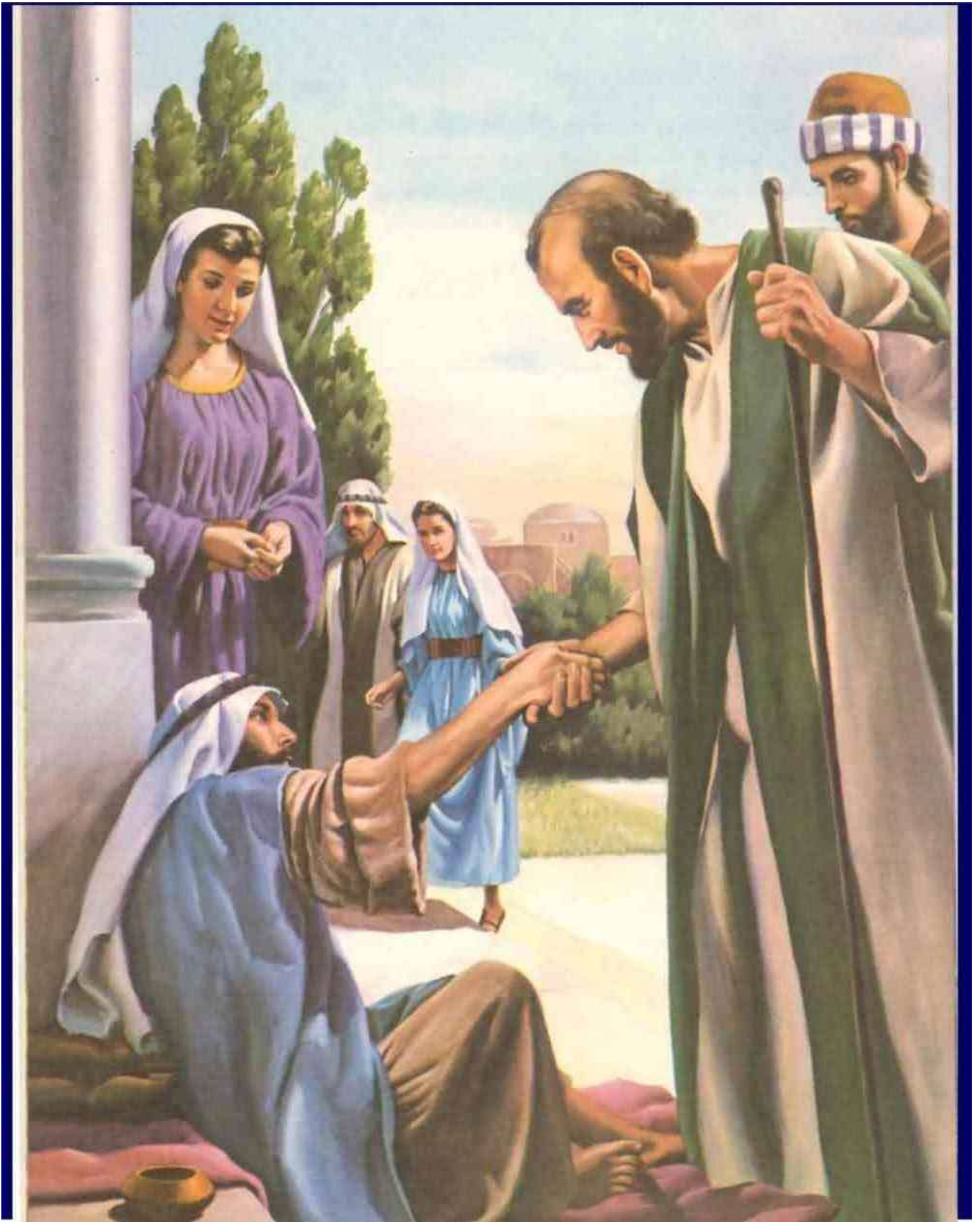
m' . f' . s' . s' : s' : d'' . t' . l' :-:

t' . d'' . s' . l' . s' . f' . m' : r' : d' :-:

There Is Power In The Blood

There is power in the blood, this I know
'Tis a Healing, Cleansing flood, this I know,
I am trusting, I am free,
In the stream that flows from Calvary.

PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2

