### STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

## Lesson 6 - Peter Heals the Crippled Beggar - Acts 3:1-10

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

## Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar

- 3 At 3 o'clock one afternoon, the hour of prayer, Peter and John went up together to the Temple.
- <sup>2</sup>As they were approaching the entrance, a man who had been lame since birth was being carried there. Every day he was left at what was called the Beautiful Gate, to beg from those entering the Temple courts.
- <sup>3</sup>Upon seeing Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money.
- <sup>4</sup>They both looked straight at him. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"
- <sup>5</sup>So he eagerly gave them his full attention, expecting a gift.
- 6"I don't have any silver or gold," Peter said. "But I'll give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus the Messiah from Nazareth, get up and walk!"
- <sup>7</sup>Then he took hold of the man's right hand and lifted him up. Immediately his feet and ankles became strong.
- 8So he jumped to his feet, stood upright, and began to walk. Then leaping, walking, and praising God, he entered the Temple court with them.
- <sup>9</sup>All the people stared at him as he walked about praising God.
- 10Then it dawned on them that this was the man who always sat begging at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple! And they were filled with amazement, and wondered what had happened to him.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

# Lesson 6 – Peter Heals the Crippled Beggar - Acts 3:1-10

- 71. Where were Peter and John going? (3:1) When?
- 72. Why were the apostles going to the temple? (3:1)

- 73. Who was carried to the temple gate every day? (3:2)
- 74. How long had the beggar been crippled? (3:2)
- 75. Why did the crippled man spend every day at the gate called Beautiful? (3:2)
- 76. What did the beggar do when he saw Peter and John approaching? (3:3)
- 77. How did the two apostles first respond to the crippled man? (3:4)
- 78. What did Peter say to the beggar? (3:4-6)
- 79. In what ways did the crippled man respond to Peter's words? (3:5,7-8)
- 80. After he was healed, where did the beggar go? (3:8)
- 81. What did Peter and John do after the miraculous healing? (3:8)
- 82. What happened when the man responded to his miraculous healing? (3:8-10) Why?
- 83. How did the people feel about what had happened to the crippled beggar? (3:9-10)
- 84. When have you witnessed God's miraculous healing power at work?

## Lesson 7 - Peter Speaks to the Onlookers - Acts 3:11-26

## Peter Speaks in Solomon's Porch

<sup>11</sup>And as this lame man who had just been healed kept holding on to Peter and John, all the people in amazement came rushing to where they were, in what is called Solomon's Porch.

12When Peter saw their astonishment, he said, "People of Israel, why are you so amazed at this? And why do you keep staring at us so intently, as if by our own power or holiness\* we had enabled this man to walk?

\*Acts 3:12 – "By our own power or holiness." Peter attributed this healing of the lame man to Jesus (Acts 3:16), not to his own power or holiness (Acts 2:12).

13"The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of our fathers—has highly honored His Servant Jesus, the very One you handed over to the authorities. And when Pilate was determined to let Him go, you disowned Him.

14"You refused to accept the Holy and Righteous One. Instead, you asked that a murderer be released to you.

15"You killed the Giver of Life! But God raised Him from the dead! He lives! And we are witnesses of this fact.\*

\*Acts 3:15 - "He lives! And we are witnesses of this fact." \* ... because we saw Him alive several times after God raised Him from the dead.

16"It was by means of our faith in the power of His name, that this man, whom you see and recognize, has been made well and strong. It was by faith inspired by what Jesus could do that has given this man perfect health. The proof of his perfect health is here for all of you to see.

17"And now, dear friends, I know that you rejected Jesus because you didn't recognize who He was, which is also true of your rulers.

<sup>18</sup>"But this is the way God has fulfilled what He foretold through all His prophets: that the Messiah would suffer.\*

\*Acts 3:18 – "He foretold through all His prophets: that the Messiah would suffer.\* See Psalm 22:1-21; Isaiah 52:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Daniel 9:26; Zechariah 12:10.

19"So now repent\* and be converted.\* This is absolutely necessary so that the record of your sins may be blotted out. Then times of refreshing will come to you from the presence of the Lord.

\*Acts 3:19 - "So now repent." that is, change your heart about sin and return to God.

"And be converted."\* The word converted implies a turning from sin and a turning to God. This word corresponds to repentance and faith (See 1 Thess. 1:9).

<sup>20</sup>"And God will again send you Jesus, your Messiah, whom you were promised long ago.

21"But the truth is, He must remain now in Heaven until the time comes when the whole earth will be recreated and restored to its former glory,\* as God has prophesied through all His holy prophets from ancient times.\*

\*Acts 3:21 – "The whole earth will be recreated and restored to its former glory." This refers to *things*, not *people*. It speaks of the restoration of the earth and sky to their former state, not the regeneration of all people.

"God has prophesied through all His holy prophets from ancient times."\* See Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:5-13.

22"It is also true, as Moses told our ancestors,

- 'The Lord your God will raise up for you from among your own people a Prophet, just as He did me. When He comes, you must listen carefully to everything He tells you, and obey Him.
- <sup>23</sup>Anyone who refuses to listen and obey Him will be separated from God's people and utterly destroyed.' (*Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19*).
- <sup>24</sup>"In fact, Samuel and every prophet who has spoken since, have all spoken about what has now happened.
- 25"You are the descendants of the prophets. It was to your ancestors that God made the promise when He said to Abraham, 'People of all nations on earth will be blessed through your Offspring.'\* (*Genesis 22:18; 26:4*)
- \*Acts 3:25 "Blessed through your Offspring." Literally, *your seed*, which is singular in the Greek text, referring to Christ (See Galatians 3:16).
- <sup>26</sup> And when God sent His Servant Jesus with His message, He first of all sent Him to you, to bless you by seeking to turn every one of you from the sinful lives you are living."\*
- \*Acts 3:26 "Turn every one of you from the sinful lives you are living." Or, turn every one of you from your wicked ways.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

### Lesson 7 - Peter Speaks to the Onlookers - Acts 3:11-26

- 85. Why did a beggar hold on to Peter and John? (3:11)
- 86. Where were the people in the crowd assembled? Why? (3:11)
- 87. What did Peter do in response to the gathered crowd? (3:12)
- 88. How did Peter address the group? (3:12)
- 89. What disclaimer was implied in Peter's opening words? (3:12)
- 90. To whom did Peter attribute the power for healing the beggar? (3:13-15)
- 91. How did Peter set the scene to speak out against the actions of those who crucified Jesus? (3:13-15)
- 92. Why was the healing of the man best understood against this profile of Jesus? (3:13-16)

- 93. What is the significance of Jesus' name in the healing of the lame man? (3:16)
- 94. According to Peter, why did certain Jews mistreat Jesus? (3:17)
- 95. How did the Jews' ignorance further the plan of God? (3:18)
- 96. What did Peter tell his audience to do in order to be forgiven of their sins? (3:19)
- 97. What results would follow if Peter's audience responded to his words? (3:19-21)
- 98. How did Moses and the prophets predict the coming of Jesus? (3:22-23)
- 99. How did Peter offer hope to his audience in spite of his warnings? (3:24-26)
- 100. What does it mean to repent and turn to God?