Acts
OF THE APOSTLES

[4]

AN AFTERNOON AT THE TEMPLE

Acts 3:1–4:4



When you were born, your life was immediately characterized by relationships. You had a relationship with your mother and father and perhaps some siblings. As you grew, you began to establish more relationships with family, friends, and neighbors.

When you were born into God's Church through baptism, you entered into another kind of relationship—a relationship with others who had been born into His family. The most significant relationship, however, is the relationship you have with God Himself through the Holy Spirit. The Book of Acts shows us how the Holy Spirit affects believers: the power He gives, the faith He imparts, and the wisdom He bestows on men and women of God.

As believers, we need God's Spirit guiding and directing our lives even though sometimes we would rather run our own lives. Mankind did not ask for God to send His Spirit. But God's gift of the Holy Spirit is exactly what we need and a far greater gift than we deserve.

God loves to give gifts. Throughout Scripture, we see God giving good gifts to His children. Read I Kings 3:5–13. King Solomon had a vision in which God said, "Ask what you wish Me to give you."

In verse 9, what did Solomon ask for? _____

_____

What was God's response in verses 12–13? _____

_____



Now read Acts 3:1–10. The beggar who was crippled asked for money, but received total healing instead—far more than he had asked for or expected to receive.

Can that apply to us at all? Does the Bible tell us anything that assures us that God still gives generously to His children? We might not need physical healing like the crippled man, but Scripture tells us that God generously provides for our every need.

What does Ephesians 3:20 say about God's ability to provide?

_____

_____

Sometimes we ask something of God and He doesn't give it to us. There are many reasons we may not get what we ask for. James 4:2–3 has one explanation. What is it?

- We do not have because _____
- We ask and do not receive because _____

_____

Whatever God gives us, we can have joy because we know God's greatest gift of all: "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23b).

Into THE WORD

Acts 3:1–4:4

1. Read Acts 3:1–10 and match the following:

____ John	a. "I have no silver and gold."
____ lame man	b. a popular place to beg
____ Peter	c. a temple gate
____ Beautiful Gate	d. went to pray at temple
____ temple crowd	e. so excited, he was leaping
	f. filled with amazement and wonder

2. In verse 6, Peter spoke to the crippled man at the gate.

   a. What couldn't Peter give him? _____

   b. What did Peter give him? _____

3. The beggar was healed! Who did the healing? vv.6, 8

   _____

4. In verse 12, Peter spoke to the crowd at the temple. What did he say about his own power to heal others?

   _____

5. In verse 16, what did he say about God's power to heal?

   _____

   _____

The healing of the beggar drew a crowd. Peter used this opportunity to preach another sermon. This sermon was a lot like the one he preached at Pentecost in Acts 2.

- Quoted the Scriptures (2:16 and 3:22).
- Pointed out to the crowd that they crucified Jesus (2:33, 36 and 3:14–15a).
- Proclaimed that God raised Jesus from the dead (2:32 and 3:15b).
- Preached repentance and forgiveness (2:38 and 3:19).

The similarities in these two sermons noted above are important elements of all Christian preaching. Pay attention to the sermons in your congregation. Listen for these things as your pastor preaches.

6. It might seem to us like Jesus' murder would have ruined God's plan. What did it really do? Acts 3:18 _____
   _____
   _____

7. The priests, the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees joined the crowd. What was their reaction to Peter's sermon in Acts 4:2–3? _____
   _____
   _____

8. What was the crowd's reaction? Acts 4:4 _____
   _____



NEW IDEAS

Prophecies Fulfilled

Much of Peter's sermon focused on how Christ would suffer and die (Acts 3:18–26). God's prophets foretold many details of Christ's life, death, and resurrection, and every single one was fulfilled! Briefly identify below what Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled.

1. Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:13–15

   _____
   _____

2. Isaiah 53:7, Matthew 27:12–14

   _____
   _____

3. Psalm 22:18, John 19:24

   _____
   _____

4. Psalm 34:20, John 19:32–33

   _____
   _____



MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." *Acts 3:19*

Extra Memory Challenge: Luke 24:45–47

discussion questions

As time allows, discuss one or more of the following:

1. In Acts 3:1–8, Peter didn't give the crippled man any money, but he gave him what he had (see v.6). Note that Peter met a spiritual need *and* a physical need. When we bring the Gospel to the poor, does that mean that we do not have the responsibility to help the poor with their physical needs (like money, food, blankets, etc.)? See also I John 3:16–18 and James 1:22–25.
2. Ephesians 3:20 says that God is able "to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think." If this is true, why do you think that some of the things we ask for—even good or important things—we may not receive? (For some help, go to James 4:2–3, Psalm 66:18, and I John 5:14–15.)
3. Read Acts 3:11 again. When he had a group of people around him, Peter used the opportunity to tell them about Jesus. In what situations could you tell others about Jesus?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday	II Peter 1:1–9
Monday	II Peter 1:10–15
Tuesday	II Peter 2:1–3
Wednesday	II Peter 2:4–9
Thursday	II Peter 3:1–7
Friday	II Peter 3:8–13
Saturday	II Peter 3:14–18



The Lutheran Church

ITS CONFESSIONS, CREEDS, & CATECHISM

- *History and Purpose of the Augsburg Confession*

The Augsburg Confession was written in 1530 A.D. It is considered the main statement of the faith of the Lutheran Church. The Confession clearly and simply sets forth biblical truth regarding our need to be saved from our sin and God's Word to save us. The Augsburg Confession was written primarily by Philip Melanchthon based on writings by Martin Luther and presented in Augsburg, Germany, to a meeting of church and state officials. The Confession is consistent with God's Word and earnestly proclaims to us Christ as Savior and Lord.

1. A confession is a statement of faith. Why is it important that the church has a statement of faith?

2. What are we encouraged to do according to Hebrews 10:23? Why? Acts 20:28–32

3. A Christian's faith must have a firm foundation. What is that foundation? Ephesians 2:20–21