

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **October 13, 2019** sermon, "Better than Silver or Gold." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 3:1-10) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

1. The scene of the miraculous (1-5)
 - a. Peter and John went to the temple to pray together (faithful partnerships)
 - b. Peter and John went to the temple to pray (faithful routines)
 - c. Peter and John initiate an interaction with the lame man (faithful ministry eyes)
 - i. When you come to church, be on the lookout for people in need.
 - ii. Your gifts, shared with the people of God, can be truly life-giving.
2. The miracle itself (6-7)
 - a. Peter and John are aware that their ministry is "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth."
 - i. Note the many references to Jesus name in Acts! (2:21, 38; 3:6, 16; 4:10, 12, 18)
 - ii. "Name" means the Person, identity, character, authority and doctrine of Jesus!
 - b. Meeting physical needs is a great place to start, but a lousy place to stop.
 - c. This miracle was immediate and complete (7). His feet and ankles were now whole!
 - d. Note: the ministry of the Apostles was accompanied by miracles/wonders (Heb 2:3-4)
 - i. We do not see "divine healers" today, but God still heals (James 5:13-15).
 - ii. Every believer has a life-giving spiritual gift in the name of Jesus Christ!
3. The response to the miracle (8-10)
 - a. Individual praise and worship. (NOTE: Isaiah 35:6: "The lame shall leap like a deer.")
 - b. Corporate praise and worship (9-10)

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Treasure Christ above everything. Do you value anything in your life as more valuable than Jesus Christ? Here, Peter provides something "better" than silver or gold. Do you treasure money more than Jesus? Or good health? Respond to this statement: it's better to be sick/broken with Jesus than to be rich/whole without him.
2. Based on #1, above: Healing is from God, but healers (today) are not. The Apostles did "wonders" in that day to prove they were from God and spoke in Jesus' name. Today we have the Word of God to authenticate true teachers. Describe how you are seeking God for wholeness. Describe how he himself is faithfully making you whole.
3. Based on #2, above: Your highest identity is that you can minister (via spiritual gifts) "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth." That is a higher identity than husband, wife, son, daughter, cancer patient, caregiver or any other. As you go out from here, you are called to minister to people in the name of Jesus. How are you learning to faithfully step into this identity?
4. Based on #3, above (and the overall context): We should expect persecution when we insist that we are ministering in the name of Jesus Christ. The world will accept our "love" and our "alms," but they increasingly reject Jesus. Can you imagine being arrested for calling out Jesus' name? Or released if you promise to stop using his name? Are you ready for this?