

Message by John Johnson  
Oct. 03-04, 2009  
Acts 3  
The Church that Preaches the Gospel

Questions for Discussion:

1. Read Acts 3:1-16. What are your thoughts as you hear the story? Who do you see as the focus of the story up to now – is it the man who was healed? The crowd? Peter and John? Does Peter seem to be acting out of character as a man who had only recently (about 50 days ago) betrayed Christ- even to a lowly servant girl? What is different?
2. Those who went to the Temple were going to give expression of worship to God. They were truly going for instruction and for the sacrifices for atonement – to receive forgiveness from God, to receive His blessing. In light of this, is it interesting at all to you that the man stayed outside the gates of the Temple for hand-outs? Was he hoping for too little, or asking the wrong person/s for help?  
Do we do the same?  
  
Why do you think that Peter calls the man to look at them? Do you think we should make that kind of personal contact important as we encounter hurting people? Peter says to the lame man, 'I have neither silver nor gold, but what I have I give you'. Is it possible that we might be 'ignoring people' even while we are trying to help them?
3. Read Acts 3:11-26. What do you notice about Peter's presentation of the Good News? He spends the first few phrases pointing a sharp finger at them for their sinfulness. Does that sound like 'Good News'? Ever tried to share the Gospel by starting out this way? Why do most people not want to hear this truth about their rebellion against God? Where in the Scriptures might you take someone to share this more?
4. Peter does not stay focused on their sinfulness, but gives them hope and points out the 'times of refreshing' that will be poured out on those who turn to the Lord. What does the Word say about these times? Is that 'refreshing' now, or is it later?  
What is the coming hope of all the earth? (v. 21) Isn't this 'restoration of all things' something that our world is already working toward? What are most of them missing? (uuuummm.....maybe, Jesus!?) What does Peter say through the prophets about those who do not listen to the coming Servant of God?
5. Peter had great boldness in this and His previous sermon recorded in Chapter 2. What aspects of sharing the Gospel do you notice that you would like to incorporate? Did God call Peter to work outside of Himself or His skill set to be a herald of the Good News? How could you work in your own context to be like a Peter? What do you think was the driving force of Peter's passion? What can we learn from this?