

Home Bible Studies

Acts

Study #6 Acts 2:41-3:10

The Fellowship of the Believers & Peter Heals a Lame Beggar

KEY:

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|-------------------|--------------------------|
| A. (READ) | What does it say? |
| B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) | What does it mean? |
| C. (REFLECT) | What does it mean to me? |

2:42. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching & to fellowship, to the breaking of bread & to prayer.

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) The early Christians met regularly to learn more about Jesus & about how to live the Christ-life; a) teaching, b) eating together, c) praying & d) fellowshiping together.

C. (REFLECT) Of these four traits of the early church, please give examples of how we do this in in regular church worship services today. Have you practiced all four of these this week? When?

2:43. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders & signs performed by the apostles.

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) The public was amazed when God performed miracles.

C. (REFLECT) If a person sees a miracle and then responds to the Gospel by praying the sinner's prayer, is that person really trusting in Jesus, or is he just trusting in the

miracle? This is a difficult question, because sometimes God reveals His power through the miracle (to catch the attention of the unbeliever) & then later brings the person to a deeper trust in Christ. Sometimes God also confirms the authority of the believer as healing becomes possible. However, unbelievers can also heal, through the power of Satan, as been seen in parts of the Bible. True faith cannot be seen. Have you ever seen a miraculous healing or other amazing work of God which contrasted with nature? If so, please tell about it. If not, please tell what you would do if you saw a sick person healed. How would you use this miracle to testify to the Power of God for salvation?

2:44. All the believers were together & had everything in common.

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) The Christians really cared for each other, and were willing to share anything that others needed.

C. (REFLECT) When you have opportunity to share with others, you face a dilemma: are you really helping them, or not? Sometimes you may be challenging the recipient to become lazy. How can you determine if a person is truly in need or not? If there is a poor family in your church who is hungry & without food, what other things can you do, after feeding them, so that they will no longer get hungry?

2:45. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) Assets were liquidated so that funds could be acquired to give food, clothes & other needs to those who were destitute.

C. (REFLECT) A house, car, & other property is hard to come by. As we save up for these special items, we cherish them. But to have such a deep love for Christ that we willingly give up our possessions, benefits very many people. This is a change from having a “secret” intimate relationship with Jesus, to allowing our love for Jesus to make the world a better place. What would you say are your “sellable” items?

2:46. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes & ate together with glad & sincere hearts,

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) The early Christians worshipped both in church (temple courts) & at home.

C. (REFLECT) Do you feel more comfortable worshipping God in a house-church setting, or in a church building? Why?

2:47. *praising God & enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) As the Christians praised God, all of the neighbors were pleasantly impressed with the changes in people's lives. The # of believers increased by 3,000 on the first day! Most likely, they were responding due to their being impressed with the positive change in people's lives, & they wanted the same change for themselves.

C. (REFLECT) Often our lives are more of a testimony than our words. Yet both are important. Please give a make-believe example of a person who is kind to his neighbors & also tells the neighbor about how to be saved. Why is it good to not just tell, or to not just live, a Christian testimony?

Acts 3

3:1. *One day Peter & John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon.*

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) Two disciples, Peter and John, were headed for church in the afternoon, at the time people go there to pray.

C. (REFLECT) Going to church to pray is a concept that many believers do not comprehend. They go to meet friends, to sing, to study the Bible, and to plan on how to reach the world for Jesus. These are all great things, but how much time do we really dedicate to pray at church? Jesus said, "My house is to be a house of prayer." Please plan briefly from 8am until noon, on Sunday morning, with ample time for prayer.

3:2. *Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.*

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) A crippled man had friends who affectionately brought him over to the Temple gate, as he was not able to get there on his own. Each day he begged for his food & funds from those headed off to church.

C. (REFLECT) Friends are pretty important. Independence is also crucial. Nobody likes a leach for a friend. However, there are times we must admit that we need others to help us. Once such time is when we are emotionally hungry. The beggar had friends help him two ways: what are they?

3:3. When he saw Peter & John about to enter, he asked them for money.

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) Peter & John were approached by the beggar to give him money.

C. (REFLECT) If only the beggar knew the power that resides in believers! He would have asked for his healing. Yet his daily routine provided only what would get him from day to day. Do we sometimes have limited expectations from God? Is it because we have been let down previously in the response to our requests? Never, ever let past experience limit our prayer expectations. Only give our planned & incredibly amazing requests to God & see what He does. Imagine that you feel that the best way to serve Jesus is to have a family of evangelists, and yet you are still single. Name five steps to arrive at that destination in prayer.

3:4. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!"

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) Peter & John required complete attention from the beggar.

C. (REFLECT) Have you ever been in a discussion with somebody and then they suddenly turn away, mid-sentence, and talk with somebody else? Nobody really likes to be ignored. How much more so, then, when we have some pertinent, important, life-changing information to share! What might be a good way to keep from getting distracted while talking with someone, even if the person is boring?

3:5. So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) The beggar thought that the disciples' conversation was going to lead to a gift that they wanted to give to him.

C. (REFLECT) The early church had to face a population that was receiving many "freebies" from the Roman government. Likewise, the government today provides many things, like unemployment insurance, & calamity aid, which previously only the church provided. Suppose that the government stopped providing this aid. Briefly design a plan whereby the church can provide aid to the needy in three categories: 1) the elderly, 2) the unemployed, 3) the hungry.

3:6. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) The disciples did not have any money to give. They still had faith though. In the power of Jesus, they commanded the crippled beggar to be healed.

C. (REFLECT) It has been said that, when the church said "Silver & Gold have I none," miracles happened. But when they said "Silver & Gold have I in abundance," that the miracles ceased. Church money comes from the congregation. Suppose you were the Finance Committee in a church, and the weekly income was 3,000 pesos. How would you divide these funds?

3:7. Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, & instantly the man's feet & ankles became strong.

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) After commanding the beggar to walk, Peter helped him to his feet. He was healed.

C. (REFLECT) There was no special incantation nor magic words used. Only that they prayed out loud, that in Jesus' name, he be healed. The feet and ankles became strong only after they helped him up. He might have expressed his faith by actually trying to get up. Since this man had been lame from birth, he had never stood nor walked before. Yet God healed him not only physically, but also intellectually. Please give examples of the following forms of healing: 1) emotional, 2) physical, 3) spiritual, 4) intellectual, 5) financial.

3:8. He jumped to his feet & began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking & jumping, & praising God.

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) The healed beggar jumped up. He walked. He kept moving around, following the disciples into the temple. He also praised God for His healing.

C. (REFLECT) Our testimonies of our healing is one of the most powerful weapons that we have against unbelievers. Suppose you were this healed beggar. Design a testimony to use before unbelievers in the following locations: 1) The temple, 2) at home, 3) at the store, 4) along the roadway.

3:9. When all the people saw him walking & praising God,

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) All the people noticed the healed beggar, and heard him praising God.

C. (REFLECT) Imagine the people scattered throughout the crowds. What were the reactions of the following: 1) priests, 2) disciples, 3) unbelievers, 4) friends, 5) family.

3:10. they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, & they were filled with wonder & amazement at what had happened to him.

A. (READ)

B. (RE-EMPHASIZE) The miracle was seen by many people, yet those who did not see the miracle happen, saw the result: a healed beggar. People were incredulous.

C. (REFLECT) When God heals you or provides other miracles in your life in response to prayer, we need to let others know about what God has done. Not only that, but we need to keep afresh with new answers to prayer, and not just recite old miracles that happened a long time ago. How can you analyze what to trust God for in prayer so that our testimony of new miracles remains fresh?

