

The Power of Jesus' Name

Can you imagine the scene—priests and tax collectors, men and women, nationals and foreigners—all repenting and coming together as one in Christ? No wonder the unsaved religious leaders said, “*By what power or by what name have you done this?*” (Acts 4:7)

In the next two lessons we will learn how the early Jewish believers relied on the power of God alone to transform their culture. No gimmicks, no programs—just Jesus working in and through the wholly devoted disciples.

Bow in Prayer: “Lord Jesus, we come with humble hearts thanking You for the unspeakable privilege of being entrusted with the Name which is above every name. May all of our petitions be the cry of Your own Spirit within our hearts.”

Read Acts 3:1-26 aloud. Pay close attention to the details of the narrative. Imagine yourself being part of the crowd at the temple, watching as the scene unfolds.

1. Record the following with references:

Expressions of time –

Events –

People –

Places –

2. ***Glance*** at the chart to get a “snapshot” of the larger context (chapters 1-7).
 - a. How many years are covered in the first seven chapters?
 - b. In what city do the events of chapters 1-7 occur?

Apparently some days had passed since the events of Pentecost. The crowds that had come for the Feast had returned home and the city had quieted down. At the close of chapter 2 Luke tells us that many “*wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles*” (2:43). Now he supplies an especially dramatic example.

3. How does Luke describe the condition and situation of the beggar (verse 2)?
4. Recount the actions of Peter in verses 3-7.
5. What details does Doctor Luke give in verses 7-9 to let us know that this was a miracle?
6. What verbs show the man's physical and emotional response?

Stop and Think: This man, now over forty years old (Acts 4:22), had never walked in his entire life—but even more he had never walked beyond this gate into the nearer presence of God!

The beggar asked Peter and John for “silver or gold,” but to his astonishment he received a miracle of divine healing through the risen power of the Lord Jesus Christ!

7. Have you ever asked God for something but He answered your prayer by giving you something far more valuable? Provide an example.
8. How are you affected by the reaction of the crowd to the healing of the man who had been crippled from birth (verses 9-11)?
9. In this powerful scene by whose authority did Peter speak and act? Note the reference.

Using another's name always presupposes that He trusts us with His interests and that His honor would be safe in our hands. Our bearing the Name of Jesus shows that we have given up our own name and with it, our own independent life. As Christ's servants the treasures and spiritual powers of the spiritual world are placed at our disposal to help those around us (John 14:13-14).

The healing bestowed upon this man gives him the capability of an entirely new life; it is a visual act that points to a deeper reality—an act that portrays what salvation does.

10. How would you sum up what it means to be healed spiritually, in your heart, when you believe in Jesus? (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 1:17, 8:1; Ephesians 1:3, 7; 1 Peter 1:18, 23; Colossians 1:13.)

Although Peter could have used this situation to strengthen his influence over the people, he responded as a true servant of God.

11. What possible misunderstanding of the miracle on the crowd's part did Peter anticipate in verse 12?

12. In Acts 3:11-16 Peter tells us *why* and *how* the lame man was healed. Who was Peter addressing in Acts 3:12, 17?
 - a. According to verse 13a *why* was this man healed?

 - b. According to verse 16 *how* was the lame man healed?

A good sermon introduction is supposed to capture attention and familiarize listeners to the subject at hand. Peter and John's healing of the lame man in the temple courts accomplished this in a powerful way! It drew a huge crowd of awed spectators and gave the apostles an open door to declare plainly that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah who fulfilled all the predictions of the prophets.

13. The greatness of Peter's sermon is that it is all about Jesus. Look at each of the titles Peter gives to Jesus in verses 13-16. How does each title emphasize the uniqueness of our Lord?

14. **Reread** Acts 3:13-16. What other point does Peter drive home in this passage? Underline the word *you* every time it occurs in these verses.

The guilt of the people of Jerusalem is described by a series of contrasts.

Acts 3:13-14	The glorification of God's servant	Disowned Christ as their Messiah
Acts 3:13	Pilate's desire to release Jesus	Insistence that He be put to death
Acts 3:14	The One they wished to crucify	The one they wished to release
Acts 3:21-23	The promised prophet	Christ considered a false prophet

Imagine what it would have been like to be among the crowd and to hear Peter's indictment.

15. Israel's guilt was enormous, yet not even this dreadful blunder was outside God's plan. According to Acts 3:18 God used their ignorance to _____.

Reread Acts 3:19-26. Peter concludes his sermon with several references to the Old Testament prophets. The Jews' love for Moses, Samuel and the other prophets would have heightened their interest in his message.

16. What did Moses and the other prophets say about Jesus that strengthened Peter's call for repentance?

17. How has repentance brought times of refreshment to your life? How do you long to be refreshed right now?

Life Lessons

18. While scanning through your completed study think about ways you could apply Peter's example in this chapter to various situations in your life. Be specific.
19. Consider what have you learned about the "power of Jesus' Name" from Acts chapter 3. Are you allowing the power and character of Jesus to shape your life, your ministry? Explain.