

# Our **GUIDE** for little ones

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IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lesson 62

## The Healing of the Lame Beggar

*Acts 2:41-3:26*

In the whole history of the Christian church there has never been a day more marvelous than ... Pentecost. Just think of that. The giving of the Holy Spirit. The amazing signs. Every single member of the church bubbling over with the joy of salvation, wanting nothing more than to tell others about Jesus, their risen, ascended, exalted Lord! And then 3,000 people added to the church in one day! We can well imagine that the people of God wished that that day would never end.

But it did. The day ended. And then what? Was Pentecost just a *one-day wonder*? Or did the fruit of the Spirit *live on* in the church?

Do you know what the Holy Spirit does? He makes God's people to be more like *Jesus*. Now think, what was *Jesus*

like? He was *spiritually-minded*. He cared very little about earthly things. In fact, for three and a half years He didn't even have a place that He could call *home*. Also, Jesus spent much time in *prayer*. Sometimes, when other people were *sleeping*, Jesus would be off somewhere by Himself, alone, praying. And, too, Jesus lived for *others*. Many times, during the day, when people would crowd around Him, He would spend so much time teaching them, and healing their sick, that He didn't even have time to *eat*.

Yes, Jesus Himself was *filled with the Spirit*. People could *see* that. And,

**Note to Parents:** These papers are intended for the younger Sunday School students — grade 3 and below. Vocabulary and concepts are such that children in this age group, even the 3rd graders, will profit most if the stories are read *to* them, not *by* them. Most lessons have two stories, for two sittings if that proves to be beneficial. Our hope is that parents will find these lessons to be useful tools in the teaching of Bible stories and Bible truths to their children in the "off" season.



before He died, Jesus told His disciples that soon He would give *them* that *same* Spirit. Then *they* would be more like *Him*.

That was true of the 3,000 — they were more like Jesus — the day after Pentecost, a *week* afterwards, and a *month*. And their neighbors *noticed* that. The Bible tells us that the new Christians had *favor* with all the people. That is, the people *liked* what they saw in the Christians. Even those who never joined the church could see that the Christians had something that was *good*.

Now, how were the Christians different? The Bible tells us that, too. They continued in the teaching of the apostles, the Bible says, and in fellowship, and in prayers. That means that they *liked* to come together with fellow believers and to learn from the apostles. They didn't say, "Oh, we know all that stuff already." No, they came, whenever possible, and listened, and learned. Like Jesus, they were spiritually-minded. And they were often in *prayer*. Prayer-time was *important* to them — as it was for Jesus.

Besides, the Bible tells us, they "had all things in common." That is, they *shared*. They cared for each other. When



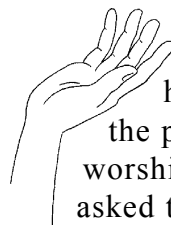
they saw a brother or a sister who was *poor*, they said, "Here, take this. The Lord has given me more than I need — so that I can help *you*."

That's how it should be. Those early Christians showed, not only by their

*mouth*, but by their *life*, that the Spirit of *Christ* was in them.

And, as for the apostles, teaching and preaching was their *life*. There was nothing in the whole wide world that they would rather be doing. Often they would go to the temple — to tell others there about Jesus.

One day when Peter and John did that, they saw at the gate a beggar. The man couldn't walk. All his life he had been lame. Not able to *work* for a living, he would sit, day after day, at the gate of the temple, begging, hoping to get a coin or two from the people who went to the temple to worship. He saw Peter and John. He asked them, too, for some ... money.



Peter looked at him and said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and *walk*."

And, lo and behold, the man *did* it. For the first time in his life he had *strength* to walk. And immediately he knew *how* to walk — without having first to *practice*. He stood, he walked, he leaped.



And he kept right on leaping ... and praising God. That must have looked strange indeed. A grown man, jumping around, in the temple. People saw him, and they came to investigate, to check it out. They saw at once, to their amazement, that the jumping man was none other than the beggar — the beggar who had all his life been *lame*. How can this *be*? The crowd got bigger and bigger.

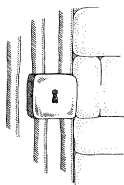
And they all looked for an answer ... to Peter and John.

Peter spoke up. “Don’t look at us,” he said, “as if we did this miracle by *our* power. We didn’t.” And then Peter pointed them straight to ... *Jesus*. “The God of our fathers,” said Peter, “has glorified His Son Jesus — yes, Jesus, whom *you* denied, whom *you* killed. *God* raised Him from the dead. And it’s by *His* power that this man now *walks*.”

The people knew very well what Peter was saying about Jesus. He was saying that *Jesus of Nazareth* was ... the *Messiah!*

Was that hard to believe? Was it hard to believe that Jesus, who had been *crucified*, was the *Messiah*? Ah, yes, Peter knew how hard it was to believe that the promised Messiah must suffer and die. So he carefully showed the people, from the Old Testament Scriptures, that that’s exactly what the prophets had foretold. In *Jesus*, Peter said, God has *fulfilled all those prophecies*.

Hundreds of people were listening to Peter. Many of them *believed*. But this was in the *temple* — where there were also chief priests, and Pharisees, and Sadducees. You remember them. They are enemies of Jesus. And do you know what? Before the day is over, Peter and John will find themselves ... in *jail*.



### How Well Did You Listen?

1. What did the lame man at the gate of the temple ask of Peter and John?

What did he receive instead?

2. How did the healed beggar show his excitement at being able to use his feet and legs?

3. The people wondered how the lame man could be *walking*. To whom did they look for an answer? What did Peter tell them?

## Peter and John Before the Council

*Acts 4:1-22*

Salvation is in Jesus. *Only* in Jesus.

All religions, therefore, that leave *Christ out* are *false*.

That was true of the *Jews* too. No matter how pious they might appear to be, if they *reject* Christ, if they say *no* to Jesus, they are *lost*.

That was the message of the apostles. So important is Jesus Christ, that *His name* makes the difference between *life* and *death*, between *heaven* and *hell*.

What the apostles were preaching, therefore, was the good news of *salvation*. Did they, then, expect that all who heard them would say, “Oh, thank you, thank you, thank you, for bringing the gospel to us lost sinners”? No, they didn’t. Jesus had warned them what to expect. “Ye shall be hated of all nations for my sake,” Jesus had said. And: “If they have persecuted *me*, they will persecute *you*.” And even this: “Some of you shall they cause to be put to *death*.”

What then? Did Peter and John sneak around in the temple, trying not to be seen by the wicked leaders who had crucified their Lord? Did they try not to mention the “name of Jesus” because that might get them in trouble?

No, they raised that name high, like a banner, for all to see and hear: “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk!” And “his name ... hath made this man strong.”

And then what happened? Did the people believe? Did they repent? Yes, many of them did. For Jesus is pleased to use *mere preaching* to bring people into *His church!*

But the wicked leaders of the Jews were watching and listening. They hated it all. They had hated the name of Jesus of Nazareth from the beginning. And now they are hearing it again! His disciples are doing miracles, and preaching, *in the name of Jesus*. And, worse still, people are *believing* them. The leaders are *really upset*. Not sure what to do, they decide at least to *arrest* Peter and John, and *lock them up*. Peter and John therefore soon find themselves in *prison*.

They spend the night in prison. And, early the next day, they are brought before the ... Sanhedrin. Seventy men. These are the *rulers* of the people. These are the same men who, not long before, had decided that *Jesus* must *die*. What will they decide, now, about two of His disciples?

That would be scary, wouldn't it? These rulers will demand an answer — an

answer that may be used to decide whether Peter and John will live ... or *die*. What do you think, are Peter and John *nervous*? When the high priest asks, “By what power have ye done this?” will these fishermen *stutter* and *stammer*, as they try to think of something to say about the name of Jesus? Listen to Peter.

“Be it known unto you all,” Peter says, boldly and confidently, “and not only unto you but to *all Israel*, that by the *name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth*, whom *you crucified*, whom *God raised from the dead*, even by *Him* doth this man stand here before you whole.” And be it known unto you also, Peter continued, that “there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

Yes, that's how important it is! Salvation — life or death — is in no other name than the name of Jesus! That was exactly what the Sanhedrin had to be told.

How did Peter know that? And how was he able to look the high priest straight in the eye and say it for all to hear?

Think about that. Think about that because someday *you* might have to do *exactly what Peter did*. Someday (and those days *are* coming) you might be arrested, and imprisoned, and judged — just because you are a *Christian*. What will *you* say? Listen closely as we hear again what Jesus told His disciples.

“You will be brought before kings and rulers *for my name's sake*.” The

kings and rulers will demand an answer — an answer to this question, “What do you think of Jesus?” “Don’t worry,” Jesus told His disciples, “about stuttering or stammering. Don’t even bother to think ahead of time how you will answer the rulers. For (now listen closely) I will give you a mouth and wisdom.”

That’s what Jesus had promised. “I will give you a mouth and wisdom.” Peter was the first to learn how true that was. Boldly, confidently, in the very face of the enemy, he was able to give a good testimony — because Jesus *gave him a mouth*. For us, when the time comes, Jesus will do the same.

The high priest and the seventy rulers had expected to see these two fishermen stutter and stammer. They are surprised, therefore, by Peter and John’s boldness and by their clear thinking. “How in the world is this *possible*?” they wondered. They could think of only one answer (and it’s the *correct* answer): Peter and John have *been with Jesus*.

If we are brought before rulers, is that what they will think of us — that we have “been with Jesus”? You say we *can’t*? Because Jesus no longer lives on this earth? But do not forget: He left us His *Word* — in *writing*. And He sent us His *Spirit*. Read His *Word*! Be guided by His *Spirit*!

The Sanhedrin hated Jesus. They hated His disciples. But they feared the *people* — the people, who had seen, and

*liked*, the great miracle of healing of the lame man. The Sanhedrin, therefore, dares not harm Peter and John. Instead they *threaten* them. “Do not,” they commanded, “ever again speak or teach in the name of Jesus.”

Yes, that was a *command*. And it meant this: “If you mention the name of Jesus again, you will be in *deep trouble*.”

Rulers must be *obeyed*. Peter and John *knew* that. But *Jesus* had said, “Do not be silent. Tell everyone about *Me*.” So Peter and John knew what they had to do. Again they looked the rulers right in the eye and said, “You will have to judge whether we do wrong in obeying *God*, rather than *men*; but we will tell you right now that we *cannot but speak the things that we have seen and heard*.”

This is the courage of those who have “been with Jesus.” It amazes their enemies. The Sanhedrin dared do nothing further than threaten them again, and then let them go — for now.

### How Well Did You Listen?

1. After Peter preached to the people, many believed. What did the leaders of the Jews do?
2. What did the Sanhedrin ask Peter and John?
3. The Sanhedrin was surprised at the boldness of Peter and John. What did they think was the *reason* for such boldness?
4. What did the apostles say when the Sanhedrin warned them never again to teach in the name of Jesus?

**How Well Do You Understand?**

1. How did the beggar know that he had not been healed by the power of Peter and John?
2. What did Jesus tell His disciples would happen when they will be His witnesses?
3. Jesus promised His disciples that He would give them a mouth and wisdom. Do you see how He did that for Peter and John?
4. How can we, too, be “with Jesus” — even though He is no longer on earth?
5. When is the only time that people of God may, and must, disobey their rulers?

**Memory Verse**

Acts 4:20 “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

**Connect the Dots**

Color in the letters.

How was the lame beggar healed?

IN THE NAME OF

JESUS

