

Acts 3.1-4.31

1. This passage begins with Peter and John reaching out in Jesus' name and allowing God to use them to make a man whole. What are some recent examples of when God moved you to reach out to others and bless others in Jesus' name? What happened and how did it go?

2. It is very important to Peter that everyone (the lame man, the crowd, the Jewish leaders) understands that what is happening is being done "in the name of Jesus," i.e., by the power of Jesus and for the sake of Jesus. He didn't want anyone to miss that.

a. Why do you think that it was so essential to Peter that everyone understood that what was happening was by the power of Jesus and for the sake of Jesus?

b. When you bless others in Jesus' name, do you make sure that they know whose name you are acting in? Why or why not?

c. What are some intentional ways that we can make sure that others know in whose name we are serving them, without having to preach a full sermon?

d. Along the same lines, how can we be more intentional about using our opportunities to bless others as a way to share Jesus with others?

3. While God does use both the miracle and sermon that he offers through Peter to lead others to salvation, it also gets Peter, John, and the healed man arrested.

a. Have you ever done something for Christ and it turned out in a way that you didn't expect, leading to some kind of trial or suffering? If so, what was it and what happened?

b. What did God teach you through that situation?

c. What can we learn from the Apostle's example here about how to suffer well?

4. In Peter's defense during the trial he stresses that there is no other name by which we can be saved. The Sanhedrin didn't mind that Peter and John were healing. What they didn't like was what they were teaching and whose name they were healing in.

a. What other names (i.e. ideologies, philosophies, important people, values, etc.) are we tempted to look for salvation in?

b. What other names (i.e. causes, idea, people) are we tempted to do things for other than Jesus?

c. As important as those other things are, why is Jesus better?

5. This text ends with the Peter and John going back and praying with their friends for boldness to continue to be faithful in the face of opposition. In other words, they are praying for the faith and courage to be faithful even when it is hard or dangerous.

a. In what ways have you seen God increasing your boldness to speak, serve, and bless in his name?

b. Where and in what kinds of situations do you need to more boldness.

End your time by praying for one another for greater boldness in the areas that you identified.