

Sermon Text from 10/14/2012

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide*

1 Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. 2 As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money. 4 Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. 6 But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!" 7 Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. 8 He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. 9 All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. 10 When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! 11 They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

Acts 3:1-11 (NLT)

Observation (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- ...
- O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

v.1-11

- O: Slowly observe the text together: 1. where is this event taking place? (Temple) What is going on? (3pm prayer time) Who is there? (lot of folks, including apostles, and a beggar) What is asked? What is offered in response? ***What is the response of all folks in the story? (apostles, beggar, crowd,...) Who ultimately gets the glory? Follow-up: How do you usually respond to the amazing acts of God?
- O: Slow down, and really observe v.6.... go through it slowly as a group. For example, what is the significance of "in the name of Jesus..."
- O: How did this healing of the blind man promote the spread of the gospel?
- I: based on Acts 2:41, discuss the momentum that Peter and John (the leaders of the new church) must have felt... and considering they are entering the Temple to take part in a formal prayer service,... discuss their response to the beggar's request in v.3 and their response is v.4.
Note: The goal with this question is to reflect upon/discuss the "interruptability" of the believers (or, responsiveness to the Holy Spirit)
- I: What do you think Peter and John healed the beggar physically instead of just either giving him money or offering him "spiritual" salvation?
- A: How do you think v.1-10 could set an example for our priorities or mission today? If so, how? If not, why not?
- A: How interruptable are you? How sensitive to the Spirit's leading are you? Be specific. Can you give examples? How can we become more interruptable? More sensitive to the Spirit's leading? Be Specific,.... ex., schedule (is it too packed?) routines (are you in the Bible regularly)?.... etc.

Recommended Follow-up:

- Read: Next week's sermon (10/21/2012) will focus on Acts 3:11-26. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, etc.

* As discussed in Riverside's HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid "go through this guide word-for-word." There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guides rely heavily on a few other study guides; including: Serendipity NT for Groups by the Young Life ministry (ISBN is N/A), "Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action" by Phyllis LePeau (ISBN 9780830830077), "Acts: Seeing the Spirit Work" by John Stott (ISBN 0851113907), "Acts" by N.T. Wright (ISBN 9780830821853), "Acts" by NavPress (ISBN 0891091122), "Acts" by Blackaby (ISBN 9781418526429), "Acts: The Spread of the Gospel" by John MacArthur (ISBN 9781418508746), "Book of Acts" by Max Lucado (ISBN 0849953006).