

Discuss ways that we can 'do' these four points practically as individuals, as a small group and as a church. Let Kate or Julie know if there are things you would like to follow up on and need support/resources for.

Do you notice/see any other lessons in this passage?

Prayer Pointers. Some suggestions:

- For those longing for physical healing
- For those who feel like 'outsiders'
- That we would be a truly welcoming church, especially for those who feel 'different'
- For refugees
- For Alpha at Brockhill residential home beginning this Friday
- For our young peoples' discipleship/baptism/confirmation course run by Ed this term
- For the Messy Church exploration at Lakeview with the Salvation Army (open meeting 10am Saturday 16 April at Salvation Army)
- For courage to share our faith where God has called us
- For courage to connect more deeply with our community—especially as we explore options for an additional Sunday service—that we would hear God's call in this.
- For us all to receive the healing love of God through faith in Jesus

St Andrew's Goldsworth Park
Sunday 10 April 2016
Kate Wyles

study notes

Acts 3.1-16

The Power of His name

Power in His name

Acts 3.1-16 'Peter heals a lame beggar'

Opener

Think back to a time when:

- A) you have hurried past someone, avoiding eye contact. Share something of the situation and what made you walk by?
- B) or when people have looked right through you as though you were not there—or walked past you as though you did not exist. Share something of that experience.

Read the passage: Acts 3.1-16 together

Peter and John 'look intently' at the lame beggar - Peter asks him to look at them (3.4 NLT). Why do you think eye contact is important here? What do you think it might have meant to the lame beggar to be really looked at by Peter and John? Why might they have wanted the man to look at them?

(...Something deeply personal is about to happen. Through Peter and John the resurrection power of God is getting to work. This is no time for looking down, or for looking away in shame or embarrassment but a time to look up, to be noticed, to be raised up.) The sermon.)

Peter and John have discovered a new kind of life since Jesus resurrection and since the Holy Spirit filled them. It is a new life they want to share. Peter uses the name of Jesus to make it clear where the healing comes from. Had Jesus been there we can imagine that he would have simply said 'Get up and walk'.

'The power of the name of Jesus has restored the man to his health, and to much more than his health.' The sermon.

Apart from physical healing how else is the man 'healed' or 'restored' by the disciples? *(Spiritually—to faith in Jesus and to worship of God in the temple, to the community—he can be with*

others/fully part of the community, culturally—as a full-member of the Jewish people/no longer excluded/overlooked.)

Peter saw his opportunity and addressed the crowd

Read Acts 12 and 13, then look at Exodus 3 verses 1-10. Note the descriptor used for God in both passages is the same: *the God of your father (our father in Acts), the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob*. Why does Peter choose to remind his listeners of this passage in Exodus? What relevance does it have for them? What relevance might it have for us?

Miracles of physical healing done by Jesus or performed in his name can be challenging. In what ways do miracles like the one in this passage challenge you? And in what ways do they bless you?

'...passages like (Acts 3) sign-post me to what the kingdom of God will be like when it comes in all its fullness. But until it comes in fullness some of us will get sick, and all of us will die.

Our bodies are frail, mine is, yours is - and they are prone to go wrong. But God's will is for each one of us to be raised up and restored; healed through faith in Jesus Christ.' The sermon

What can we learn?

As people who want to offer the healing power of the love of Jesus Christ what do we learn through Peter, John and the man born lame? Four things to take from here:

- Look intently—at the world/our community/our work place—try to see things with the eyes of Jesus Christ.
- Get up close and personal and offer what you have - faith in Jesus is life changing/ healing - and offer a hand up
- Welcome people in - bring people in/invite them (Peter and John didn't put money in a cup and leg it— The sermon)
- Proclaim that it is all done in Jesus name— to the Glory of God.