

The People of Jesus – Week 2

Peter and Prayer Reaching Out

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Acts 3:1-19 & Acts 4:1-31 (NIV)

1. Be Attentive to Needs of Others

Acts 3:1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer... 2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

2. Offer to Help with What You Have

6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk..." 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate... they were filled with wonder and amazement...

3. Don't Take Credit, Point to Jesus

12 When Peter saw this, he said to them:... "Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ... 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing... 19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

4. Respect People, But Honor and Obey God

Acts 4:1 The priests and the captain of the temple guard... 2 were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection... 3 They seized Peter and John, and... put them in jail... 4 But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand.

5 The next day the rulers... 7 had Peter and John brought before them... "By what power or what name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said... 9 "If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple... 10 then know this... It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed... 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus...

18 Then they... commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter... replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard..."

5. Prayer is the Power of Effective Outreach

23 On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer... 29 "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal... through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.