

The Way
Birth of the Church
Lesson 04: Jesus Used Peter and John to Heal a Crippled Man
We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

The Way of the Early Church...

- They Believed (Jesus is the only way to God)
- They were Baptized (public demonstration of faith)
- They Behaved

BIG Idea

Today we'll be looking at the **boldness** of the Apostles. The Holy Spirit used Peter and John to perform miraculous signs and call people to repent and believe in Jesus, even when they were persecuted.

Information (What You Need to Know)

Actions of Peter and John through the Holy Spirit...

▪ **Peter heals a lame man**

- ✓ Peter and John go to pray, but not sacrifice

Acts 3:1 (ESV) Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer.

“Peter and John were *not* going to the temple at the hour of *sacrifice*, but **at the hour of prayer**. They realized that the sacrificial system was fulfilled in the perfect sacrifice Jesus offered on the cross.” – Got Questions

- ✓ Peter and John encounter a lame man at the temple gate

Acts 3:2 (ESV) And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. **3** Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. **4** And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” **5** And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.

- ✓ Peter healed the lame man through the power of the Spirit

Acts 3:6 (ESV) But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” **7** And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. **8** And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

- ✓ The people were amazed

Acts 3:9 (ESV) And all the people saw him walking and praising God, **10** and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement...

▪ **Peter preaches with boldness**

- ✓ The people in the temple gather around Peter and John
- ✓ Peter accuses the people of rejecting Jesus, the One who gave power to heal
Acts 3:15 (ESV) "...and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16** And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all..
- ✓ Peter calls on the Jews, who rejected Jesus, to repent and be forgiven
Acts 3:17 (ESV) "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18** But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. **19** Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out..."

▪ **Peter and John are arrested**

Acts 4:1 (ESV) ...the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, **2** greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. **3** And they arrested them and put them in custody...

- ✓ Many still believed in Jesus
Acts 4:4 (ESV) But many of those who had heard the word believed...
- ✓ Peter and John appear before the Jewish religious leaders
Acts 4:7 (ESV) And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" **10** [*Peter answered*] "...let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well."
- ✓ Peter declares that forgiveness of sin is only found in the name of Jesus
Acts 4:12 (ESV) "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- ✓ The religious leaders knew that Peter and John knew Jesus personally
Acts 4:13 (ESV) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

“It is impossible to imagine how much the disciples would have learned from spending three years in close association with the Son of God living on earth, listening to him teach, hearing him pray, and watching him interact with the most difficult challenges. They knew Jesus, and in knowing him they knew much more than all the learned scribes of the Sanhedrin.” – ESV Study Bible

Application (What You Need to Do)

How did this story end?

- The religious leaders could not deny the power of God through Peter and John
Acts 4:16 (ESV) ...saying, “What shall we do with these men? For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.”
- The religious leaders commanded the Apostles to stop preaching about Jesus
Acts 4:17 (ESV) “But in order that it may spread no further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.”
- Peter and John boldly declared that they would continue to preach Jesus
Acts 4:19 (ESV) But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, **20** for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”
- They were released and prayed that they might be bold in their witness
Acts 4:29 (ESV) “...And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness...” **31** And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.”