

iWitness - In Jesus' Name

Introduction:

The apostles performed various healings in Jesus' name throughout the book of Acts. During these times of the early church, the apostles would interact with people from various backgrounds who would come to the temple. This one man being healed is a small snapshot within a larger picture of what happened on a regular basis there. Our passages today remind us that there is power in the name of Jesus. The way this man who could not walk from birth was able to get up and walk away from his encounter with Peter and John would seem impossible from our human perspective, but we know that "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). Peter was with Jesus throughout much of his earthly ministry, so was witness to Jesus' miracles such as calming the storm (Matthew 8:23-27), Healing the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12), Casting out Demons (Matthew 10:1), and Feeding the Five Thousand (Matthew 14:13-21) to name a few. Peter would have known that Jesus had the authority to do these things and trusted in the power of Jesus' name.

In Semitic thought, a "name" is not just something used to identify a person, place, or thing. A "name" carries the power and presence of the person. So, in this passage, Peter pronounces the name of Jesus over the lame man, releasing Jesus' power. Peter and John healed the lame man in this passage not by their own authority, but by the authority of Jesus, the Messiah. This smaller snapshot of an individual affected by Jesus is a beautiful testament to how God works on a large scale with authority over all, and yet still focuses in on individual lives. God cares for all, and through faith, we can still call on the name of Jesus when we need help or healing for ourselves or for others.

Read Your Bible

- Isaiah 35:4-6

- Acts 3:1-10
- Mark 2:1-12

Apply God's Word to Your Life:

1. What is some recent news that would make you leap for joy?
2. Talk about a time when you experienced something you couldn't wait to tell others about.
3. Why do you think Peter was so confident that the man would be able to walk?
4. What is the similarity between Isaiah 35:6 and Acts 3:8?
5. Why do you think the reference to Isaiah is important?
6. Talk with your group about an area of your life or someone else's where you called upon Jesus' name and saw restoration.
7. Share with your group an area you would like prayer for this week.

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Heavenly Father, we thank you that today we can confidently approach you with our praise, prayers, and petitions when we call on the name of Your Son, Jesus. Please help us to remember that the name of Jesus is powerful and not to be treated lightly. We pray this as an invitation that his presence would be with us in our celebrations and our sorrows. In Jesus' name, Amen.