

Study notes based on Acts 3:1-26

1. Can you recall a time when you asked for a certain gift (perhaps for Christmas or your birthday) but received something completely different instead? How did you feel?
2. What about when you have asked God for spiritual gifts – has he always given you what you asked for? Is this OK? (See 1 Corinthians 12:11) does this mean we shouldn't waste time asking?
3. Think of the lame beggar at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. Graeme suggested that the man would avoid eye contact because of the shame which came from the belief that disability was somehow connected to sin. See John 9:1-5. How does Jesus answer to his disciples address this issue? Are we aware of people in our society today who believe they are ill/incapacitated because they have done something wrong? How would we answer them?
4. Can you place yourself in Peter's sandals as he responds to the beggar's request for alms? On a scale of 1-10, how confident are you that the man will be healed? How does this relate to e.g. healing on the streets?
5. Read Isaiah 35 together. What aspects of this prophetic word relate to the Acts 3 incident? What aspects relate to our experience today? Which aspects do we think are still to come?
6. Reflect on Acts 3:11-20. Notice the overt connection between miraculous healing and the call to repentance. How could we make that connection today?
7. Graeme outlined a three fold process which related both to the beggar and to Peter – 1. receive the gift, 2. respond in faith with obedience (e.g. the beggar had to actually get up) 3. Give glory to God. How may this relate to us? E.g. have we received in faith all that God has already given to us? Have we left some of those gifts unused? Have we always been ready to give God the glory?

John S Smith 6 July 2017