

Home Group Questions

The week of 2/23/2020

Acts 3:1-26

LIFT UP "THE NAME"

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the book of Acts which centers on the birth and growth of the New Testament church. This week focused on the fact that The church is growing exponentially with miracles (like this healing of the lame man) happening frequently. The church must stay true to the gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of all this activity as it looks to Jesus to empower everything it does!!

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. **Read Acts 3:1-26.** Put yourself in the place of this lame man who had been in this condition from birth. What would be your attitude toward your condition and your attitude towards God...and your attitude towards others around you? How do you think he felt when Peter said that he didn't have any silver or gold?

- **This lame man was focused on getting money** when Peter was focused on giving him so much greater...the ability to walk. How do we sometimes focus on things that are good....but sometimes miss the things in our life that are "better"? Talk about the difference between "wants" and "needs" and how sometimes that can cause us to miss the more important things that God wants to accomplish in our lives?

- **Peter's sermon recounts the rejection of Christ** during the resurrection and instructs the listeners about who Jesus was and the ties that Jesus' life had to the prophecies in the Old Testament. What impresses you about Peter's sermon knowing that his audience was a Jewish audience? Who are the people that he refers to from the Old Testament and why are they important to this audience?

- **In his sermon, Peter is very honest** with his audience and makes some "hard to hear" accusatory statements. What is the advantage of a message like that? Why is it that sometimes people respond better to a "this is how it is"-message like the one Peter gives?

2. **Talk about what Jerusalem must have been like** when 5000 more people come to faith in Christ? What is going on in the minds of the apostles...new Christians...the Jewish leaders...discuss what the atmosphere must have been like in the city of Jerusalem with the amazing growth that the church was experiencing.

3. **Read 2 Timothy 2:15-26.** In verse 19, Paul talks about the responsibilities of "everyone who names the name of the Lord". What are some of those responsibilities that we have as believers as we lift up the name of Jesus? Take some time to identify characteristics in this passage of a person who puts God in his rightful place and lives the life of a servant.

4. **Read Philipians 2:12-16.** Lifting up Jesus in your life entails working out your salvation with fear and trembling (v. 12) refers to taking the implications of your saving faith in Christ and allowing those truths to change every aspect of your life. Here's a list of things that will hinder your growth in the Lord. Read over the list and identify ways in which each of these aspects can be seen in our lives, and ways in which we can combat them as we grow in our maturity:

Indications that we are derailing a Christ-centered life:

- ◆ **Complacency**
- ◆ **Small Compromises**
- ◆ **Self-centered lifestyle**
- ◆ **Unteachable spirit/Pride**
- ◆ **Busyness**

MOVING FORWARD...

Pray that your life would become more and more centered on your relationship with Jesus Christ and that you would get rid of "good things" in your life that might be keeping you from God's "best" things.