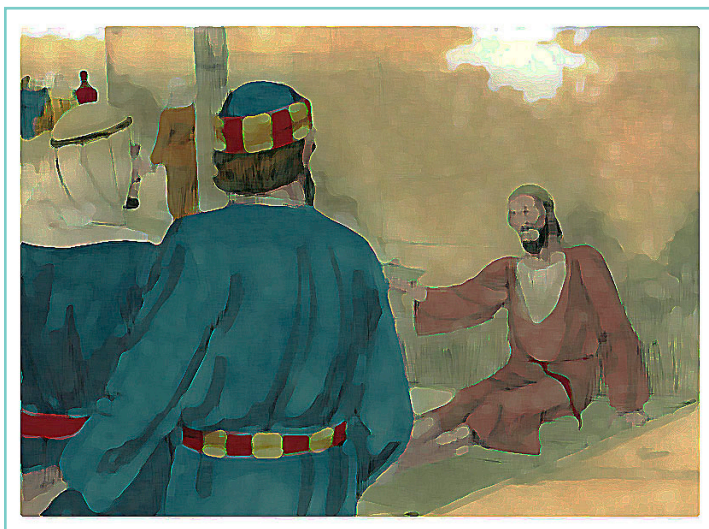


Lesson 2: Power



Old Testament

New Testament

Where in the Bible?

The Acts of the Apostles follows directly after the four Gospels.

The New Testament: Power

After Jesus ascended into heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to empower the Apostles' mission and ministry. When the disciples began to tell others about Jesus, many came to believe. This was God's doing; the power of the Holy Spirit was at work in God's Word!

Biblical Background

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to rest upon the followers of Jesus. That day, they went from being merely disciples (followers; those who learn), and were remade by God into apostles (those who are sent out). The presence and power of the Holy Spirit overcame their fears and doubts and sent them out to bring the promise of the Gospel to all nations!

We see this same power at work in today's story, where a poor man's life was changed for the better by his encounter with Peter and John. Jesus' name and power brought about healing and restoration.

Introduction

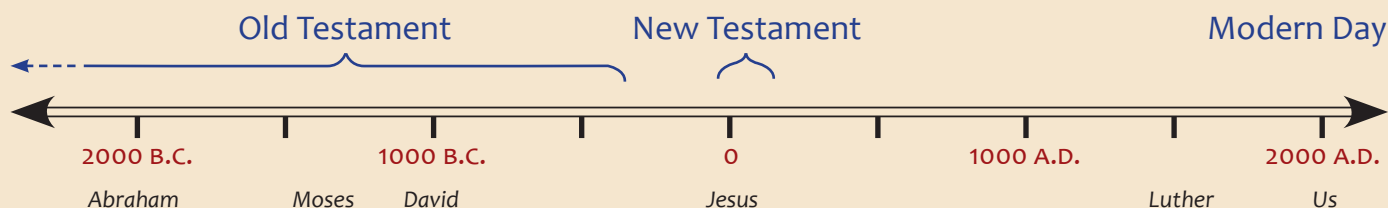
In the days after Pentecost, Peter and James went up to the temple to pray. At the gate, they encountered a beggar who had been lame from birth. That day, the poor man received a gift greater than he ever would have expected!

Read: Acts 3:1-16

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

When in Time?

Christians look at history with Jesus at the center. The time period covered by the New Testament is less than 100 years, and the events it describes took place about 2,000 years prior to our modern day. On the timeline below, mark the span of time that Christians have been following Jesus' Commission to "make disciples of all nations."



Discuss: Acts 3:1-16

1. Why were Peter and John going up to the temple that day? Do you get the impression that this was something they did often?
2. In a literal sense, what does it mean to be “lame”? What did the lame man do while he was sitting at the gate? Do you think this was this an easy way to live? Why or why not?
3. How did Peter and John respond when the lame man begged them for alms? Why would their action have been surprising to the man?
4. What does the Bible say happened to the man? How did the man react? What do you think you would have done?
5. When the crowd gathered around in amazement, what did Peter say to them? Who did he say was responsible for this miracle? Why is that important?
6. What was the last thing that most of the people in the crowd would have known about Jesus (vv. 13-15)? In what way(s) did those same people bear responsibility for this?
7. Reread verse 16. What does it mean to have faith “in the name of Jesus”? What does it mean that we have faith “through Jesus”? Is there a different shade of meaning in these two phrases?
8. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12. In what ways would you say the name of Jesus is glorified in you? By whose power does this happen in your life?

Where in the World?

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the disciples stayed in Jerusalem. They went to the temple regularly to worship. While they were in the city, the Holy Spirit came upon them.

a) On the dotted line on the small map, label the city of Jerusalem ★.

b) Which sea is closer to the city of Jerusalem?

- ☐ The Sea of Galilee
☐ The Dead Sea

c) In which corner of Jerusalem is the Great Temple located?

- ☐ Northwest ☐ Northeast
☐ Southwest ☐ Southeast

