



## Third Sunday of Easter

*Acts 3:1-10*

### Summary

This week we shift from hearing stories of things Jesus said and did, and focus on the things that his disciples did.

Before leaving them, Jesus gave the disciples a mission to share the good news, to bring healing to the people, and to spread God's love to all.

In today's reading we hear of one of the most well known disciples, Peter, living fully into the mission that Christ gave to him. When confronted with a man who had been unable to walk since birth, Peter offers him healing and hope.

### Prayer

Healing Christ,  
Reach into our lives, reach through our brokenness and love us to wholeness. Reach through us to bring healing and hope to those that we meet along life's way. Encourage and inspire us as we try to live the mission to which we have been called. AMEN

## The Story Behind the Words

- ❖ What important event preceded this story?
  - How does what happened before impact what is happening here?
- ❖ What is the significance of the story taking place at the Beautiful Gate of the temple?
  - How might this story be different if it took place somewhere else, like at the market or in someone's home?
- ❖ Why is the man placed outside rather than carried in?
  - What does this tell us about the culture and society?
- ❖ How does it being the time of prayer set the stage for this healing story?

## The Characters

- ❖ Who are the important characters in this story?
- ❖ What makes Peter a great example for us in this reading?
- ❖ What do you think was running through the head of the beggar before and after the healing?
- ❖ In what ways is the Holy Spirit active in this reading, if at all?
- ❖ Where do you see yourself in this reading?
  - What part do you think Christ is calling us to play in encounters like this?

## What is the Word saying to us?

- ❖ Other than being able to walk, how might this healing impact the life of this man?
- ❖ What is this reading teaching us about:
  - Hospitality?
  - Accessibility?
  - Prejudice or bias?
- ❖ What is the significance of Peter healing the man, "In the name of Jesus Christ"?

## Where do we go from here?

- ❖ In what ways do you see our community of faith as welcoming?
  - What actions have been taken, or policies put in place have helped to make us a welcoming faith community?
- ❖ In what ways do you see our church as restrictive to those who might want to join our community?
  - What can we do to make our faith community more inviting and accessible?
  - What barriers do we face in making those changes?
- ❖ How do you find healing within our faith community?
  - How do you bring healing to others?