

We, the body of Christ called Columbia, continue our exploration of the history of the New Testament church through the book of Acts. Last week, we learned about the core values and commitment of the early church. This week, we look at an example of the Holy Spirit performing miraculous works through the apostles—works that filled believers and onlookers with awe.

1. How do you react when you encounter people with physical or emotional disabilities on the street? When in a social setting? In Community?
2. Read and reflect on **Acts 3:4-7**.
 - How do your attitude and actions compare with the words and actions of Peter and John?
3. Often, in our day, the homeless say that one of the devastating parts of dealing with their situation is the lack of eye contact and recognition by those who encounter them on the streets.
 - Pay close attention to the words of verses **4** and **7**. Consider also Jesus' action in **Luke 5:13**, when he healed an "untouchable" leper.
 - Contrast their actions with those of the "religious" people described in **Luke 10:30-32** and the rich man in **Luke 16:19-22**.
 - What do you think the Lord would want his followers to do when they meet people in need?
 - How does this challenge you personally?
4. Read and reflect on
 - **Acts 3:8-10**. How did the man who was healed and the people who he met react to his healing?
 - Also see **Luke 17:15-16** and **Luke 18:43** to find similar reactions to healing.
5. Not only does the healing of this man parallel some of the earthly ministry actions of Jesus, it also foreshadows other events in Acts.
 - Read **Luke 5:17-26** and **Acts 14:8-11**.
 - How are these other accounts of healing similar to and different from the account found in **Acts 3**?
6. Read and reflect on **Acts 3:11-26**.
 - What does Peter do when the commotion develops following the healing of the lame man?
 - Reflect on how you react when God does something people find remarkable.
7. Compare Peter's second sermon as recorded in **Acts 3:11-26** with his first sermon recorded in **Acts 2:14-36**.
 - How are the occasions of the sermons similar?
 - How does Peter correct mistaken understanding of his listeners?
 - What Scriptural references does Peter make in each sermon?
 - Talk about the appeals Peter makes to his audiences.
8. The events of **Acts 3:1-26** are the first part of a longer story that will run through the book of Acts.
 - Reflect on the ways that this episode and the future actions of the early church reflect Jesus' words in **John 14:9-14**.
 - What does it mean to ask and act in the name of Jesus?
9. Spend time praying with your Ignition Group, asking that God would reveal to each on you what you might need to change in your life that you might live and live in Jesus name.

This week Columbians are volunteering to pass out fliers, which will promote the 629 Service and the other Columbia worship services, at local Metro stations. Knox, thames22@juno.com, is coordinating the undertaking. Consider joining fellow saints for an hour and half during a peak morning or evening commute.