

Serving Together

Read: Acts 3:1-26

Main Idea: Unity in the body of Christ is exemplified through meaningful acts of service, demonstrating that together we can impact lives and bring glory to God.

Key Verses: "I have no silver and gold, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong." **(Acts 3:5-6)**

Key Principles:

- Miracles in the early church served to confirm God's presence as the gospel spread, pointing beyond physical restoration to spiritual renewal through Christ's authority.
- Compassion for others reflects Jesus's ministry, emphasizing that true service involves meeting both tangible needs and directing people to the Savior.
- Peter's sermon teaches believers to deflect glory from themselves and magnify Jesus in all acts of service.
- Ignorance of God's plan does not excuse rejection of Christ, but repentance opens the door to restoration and aligns us with God's redemptive promises.
- Scripture's fulfillment in Jesus, from Moses to the prophets, calls the church to proclaim the gospel and invite all to turn from sin and embrace eternal blessings.
- Serving together as a community empowers believers to witness through deeds that lead to words, fostering growth amid opposition.

Discussion:

1. How does this miracle reveal God's concern for the marginalized in society? Share a time when an act of service in your life opened a door for sharing the gospel.
2. In what ways do daily routines provide opportunities to notice and respond to others' needs, and how can we avoid overlooking the broken around us?
3. What challenges arise when serving those who seem helpless or hopeless, and how does faith in Jesus's name equip us to offer more than temporary aid?
4. How does Peter's redirection of attention from himself to Christ model humility in ministry, and what steps can we take to ensure service glorifies Jesus alone?
5. Why is explaining ignorance and calling for repentance crucial in evangelism, and how does this passage show the restorative power of turning to Christ?
6. How does Peter's use of Old Testament prophecies affirm Jesus as the promised Messiah? Share how this motivates you to study and apply Scripture in outreach.

Prayer:

- Pray for openness to use everyday actions for helping and witnessing to others.
- Pray for:
 - Courage to serve with compassion, reflecting Christ's ministry in word and deed.
 - That we will experience humility in deflecting glory and magnifying Jesus.
 - Boldness to proclaim repentance and Scripture's truths, restoring relationships through the gospel.

Serving Together
Acts 3:1-26

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| I. | <u>Action</u> brings <u>healing</u>. | 3:1-10 |
| 1. | Take time to <u>acknowledge</u> the <u>hurting</u> . | 3:1-4 |
| 2. | Take time to <u>assist</u> the <u>helpless</u> . | 3:5-8 |
| 3. | Take time to <u>answer</u> the <u>hopeless</u> . | 3:9-10 |
| II. | <u>Mission</u> glorifies <u>Christ</u>. | 3:11-16 |
| 1. | <u>You</u> must <u>decrease</u> . | 3:11-12 |
| 2. | <u>Jesus</u> must <u>increase</u> . | 3:13-16 |
| III. | <u>Repentance</u> restores <u>relationships</u>. | 3:17-26 |
| 1. | <u>Explain</u> the truth of <u>salvation</u> . | 3:17-21 |
| 2. | <u>Expound</u> the truth of <u>Scripture</u> . | 3:22-26 |

NEXT WEEK:
Threatened Together
Acts 4:1-22