

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 6 March 2016.....	Acts 1	Entrusted
2) 13 March.....	Acts 2	Empowered and Unified
3) 20 March.....	Acts 3.....	Benevolent
4) 27 March.....	Luke 24	Resurrected!
5) 3 April.....	Acts 4	Courageous
6) 10 April.....	Acts 5	Integrity & Faithful
7) 17 April.....	Acts 6	Selfless
8) 24 April.....	Acts 7	Forgiving
9) 1 May.....	Acts 8	Obedient
10) 8 May.....	Acts 9	Converted & Bold
11) 15 May.....	Acts 10	Accepting
12) 22 May.....	Acts 11	Engaging
13) 29 May.....	Acts 12	Extraordinary

INTRODUCTION

- Lifeway opted to bypass Chapters 3, 7, and 11, but since I am a stickler for expository teaching I opted to weave these chapters in
- **Consider this.** A key objective for healing anyone is to enable them to go back to work so they can support their family and not be in need of anything [1Thes 4:11-12](#)
- Peter heals a lame beggar with just a few words, just as Jesus often did. This beggar wasn't looking to be healed, but was looking for cash. And this beggar didn't exhibit any faith, but Peter did.

QUESTIONS

- Peter came from a fairly wealthy family with a lucrative fishing business, and many Christians gave the Apostles money to take care of the poor, so why did Peter say to the beggar, "I don't have any money to give you"?
- Is it appropriate or even biblical to give to panhandlers/beggars?
- How much help should we extend to those in need?

Passage	Comments
Acts 3:1-10	<p>Something Bigger Than Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beggar was looking for chump change, but instead he was healed so he can go back to work – AND he was extremely happy about it – Jumping up & down • He wasn't looking for a healing, nor did he exhibit any faith to be healed – so why did Peter heal him? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Principle to Live By. It's OK to stick your neck out for the Gospel. In fact, God loves boldness... "<i>Be it done unto you as you have believed</i>" Mat 8:13 ♦ Principle to Live By. It's OK to do what we can to help people get back on their feet (Galatians 6:1), BUT there are exceptions even Apostles abided by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Slothfulness. No work, No eat 2Thes 3:10 2. Wickedness. God shows no mercy to even widows and orphans who are wicked..... Isaiah 9:17 3. Prodigal Behavior. Our sins withhold good things from us (e.g. drug addicts)..... Jeremiah 5:25 • Why did Peter state that he didn't have any money? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We know from Acts 2:45, just a few verses before, landowners were selling some of their holdings to donate to the poor within the church ♦ Also, recall from Acts 4:34-35 that proceeds from land sales were given to the Apostles for distribution ♦ So Peter probably had money available to give, BUT it was not available for this beggar ♦ Any money Peter could give was only available to the qualified needy within the church ♦ Principle to Live By. Be aware of biblical principles prior to giving God's resources that you manage (including your personal funds) to unknown panhandlers. We could be helping people God doesn't want us to help because of prodigal or wicked behavior.

Passage	Comments
3:11-16	<p>Facts and Faith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v15. Fact. God raised Jesus from the dead as attested to by more than 400 witnesses..... 1Cor 15:6 • v16. Faith. It was Peter's faith in Jesus, not the beggar's faith, which healed the man. Faith in the Lord's name, not as a magical incantation, but in the realization of who Jesus truly is, and His will for that situation
3:17-21	<p>Ignorance and Repentance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv17-19. It's time to wake up from our "ignorance" and repent and turn to Jesus for removal of our sins – Salvation is that easy • vv20-21. Jesus will come again at the "Period of Restoration" → The Millennial reign of Christ..... Rev 19
3:22-26	<p>Christ was Raised to Bless Us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter continued to provide proof from Scripture Jesus was the Messiah • v23. Tough Love Principle. "Every soul that does not heed that prophet (Jesus) will be utterly destroyed" • v26. Motivating Love. God raised Jesus to be a blessing to each one who repents and turns from their sins

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Remember to "prove all things" – Validate each situation. The 1st question to ask is, "where is your family?"
- Notice that Peter did indeed help the beggar, not with a temporary fix, but with a permanent fix so he could get back to the workforce. Peter did but give any personal or church resources to the beggar
- If a panhandler is a prodigal individual, then helping them only prolongs their misery, enables and encourages their bad behavior, and keeps them from more quickly humbling themselves and heading back to their family in the right spirit of humility [Pr 26:11](#)
- **Another principle to be aware of.** We also need to avoid helping the wicked and "loving" those who hate the Lord – and so incur possible wrath on ourselves [2Chron 19:2](#); [Isaiah 31:2](#)

NEXT WEEK: Luke 24:1-12. Our Easter message for 2016 takes a look at the women who were the first to the tomb.

