

THE BOOK OF ACTS

January 20, 2019

Acts 3:1-11

READ

Acts 3:1-11 Luke 5:12-14 Luke 5:29-30 Luke 7:36-39

John 4:7-10, 27 Matthew 15:21-28

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. Where are Peter & John going? What do they intend to do? Why are they doing this?
2. How are their plans interrupted? How do they respond to this interruption? How do you usually respond to interruptions in your plans?
3. Describe in your own words what life is like for the man in this incident (c.f., Acts 4:22).
4. What is Peter's response to the man's plea for alms (vv. 4-6)? Why does Peter stop for the man this time? (Why is this time any different from the other times Peter had passed by?) How does the man react to Peter (and John) (v. 5)? What is implied in v. 7? (Why does Peter pull/yank the man to his feet?) Who is exercising the faith here?
5. What is the domino effect once Peter has the man on his feet (vv. 7-8)?
6. The witnesses to the miracle react in what ways (vv. 9-11)?
7. This man has been lame for more than forty years (from birth). He has been a beggar perhaps since childhood. He has become a fixture at the temple where he begs "every day." He has become an "invisible" person. He is just part of the landscape. He is easily & conveniently overlooked by others. How did Jesus deal with the invisible people, the marginalized people, the disenfranchised people, He encountered? Read the following passages and answer the corresponding questions.

- Luke 5:12-14
Who is the invisible person in this incident? (Do you understand how marginalized this man is?) How does Jesus deal with him?
- Luke 5:29-32
Who are the invisible people in this incident? How are they looked upon by others (Pharisees & scribes)? How does Jesus look upon them?
- Luke 7:36-39
Who is the invisible person in this incident? What is her status in the eyes of the Pharisees? What is her status in Jesus' eyes (Luke 7:44-50).
- John 4:7-10, 27
Who is the invisible person in this in this incident? What are the cultural strikes against her? What is Jesus' reaction to her?
- Matthew 15:21-28
Who is the invisible person in this incident? How is this woman looked upon (you may have to read between the lines)? What is Jesus' reaction to her? (Why does He handle her in the particular way that He does?)

8. Can you describe an encounter you've had with an invisible person? (What brought it about? What happened?) Think about the preceding incidents. How could you have handled it differently? How can you handle such encounters going forward?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. I will listen to the still, small voice of the Spirit this week by . . .

2. I will lift up my eyes and look (John 4:35) at those around me this week by . . .