

The Church: DEFINED

Study Questions

Week 6

We saw last week how the early church devoted itself to practices that blessed those who were a part of it and caught the attention of those outside it. A community that unites and sacrifices like this is a community that gets noticed. But this was no “holy huddle,” existing only for itself. As we’re about to see, this is a community through which the Holy Spirit’s power takes to the streets in supernatural fashion.

MAIN TEXT: Acts 3:1-26

CONNECT & OBSERVE

1. What did you find most significant from Sunday’s sermon?
2. Read the passage in Acts. What questions come to mind as you consider these verses?

LEARN

3. The actual exchange in verses 5-6 may have taken just a couple seconds. If we slow down the dialogue, though, what emotions might the man be feeling as Peter says “Look at us” and the man “expected to receive something from them”? How about when Peter declares “I have no silver or gold”?
4. Note the words and repetition Luke uses in verses 7-9: “leaping up,” “stood,” “began to walk,” “walking,” “leaping,” “praising God,” “walking and praising God.” How do these words express the truly supernatural, miraculous nature of what has taken place?
5. Peter is quick to distance himself from any credit for the miracle, but attributes it to “faith in [Jesus’] name.” What does Peter mean by having faith in Jesus’ name?
6. Peter is personal in his explanation to the crowd (note how often he uses “you”). In what ways are Peter’s words both personally convicting and personally hopeful for the crowd?

APPLY

7. Miracles grab attention, but so can more “natural-occurring” events. Have you ever had an experience where something captured people’s attention and it became an opportunity to share the gospel? If so, what happened?

8. Jesus says in John 14:12 that, “whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.” What do you see in this account that should remind us of how the Spirit enables others to carry on and emulate Jesus’ ministry? Be as specific as possible.

9. How do Peter’s words in verses 11-26 strike you? For instance, do they seem *loving*, *abrasive*, *kind*, etc.? This is just one example of a gospel presentation, but how does Peter’s explanation here compare with other ways you’ve heard people express the good news of Jesus Christ?

10. What other aspects of chapter 3 do you find either challenging or encouraging?