



APRIL 13 - 19

How the Church Went Crazy

Prepare

Reflect on Jim's sermon and read Acts 3 and 4.

Ice-Breaker

If you had \$5 million to spend in 5 days, but couldn't spend any of it on yourself or your family, what would you do with it?

Discussion Time

Read

Read Acts 3 together.

Discuss

1. What part of this reading speaks to you?
2. What questions do you still have? (There may be a number of them. That's good! Take some time to discuss them as a group, looking at other parts of the Bible that may be relevant to your discussion.)
3. What points stood out to you from the teaching in this week's sermon?
4. Jim talked about the difference in doctrine and trust. On one side, we can believe that Jesus did things. On the other side we can also believe in Jesus. It's important to have knowledge, but the Christian movement is fueled by this whole-hearted belief. How do you see yourself in these two ideas? Do you lean more towards doctrine or trust?
5. Adam Donner introduced Canning Hunger during the sermon. Talk about it as a group. How will you get involved? What challenges to you foresee? What about it makes you excited?
6. How do you need to respond to God based on the Scripture we read and the sermon?
7. Is there a promise from this study you like to remember in times of need?



Pray

Close by sharing prayer requests and praying for each other.

Textual Notes

(Taken from notes on the NET translation)

3:1 *Going up to the temple at the time for prayer.* The earliest Christians, being of Jewish roots, were still participating in the institutions of Judaism at this point. Their faith in Christ did not make them non-Jewish in their practices.

3:2 *Grk "alms."* The term "alms" is not in common use today, so what the man expected, "money," is used in the translation instead. The idea is that of money given as a gift to someone who was poor. Giving alms was viewed as honorable in Judaism. See also Luke 11:41; 12:33; Acts 9:36; 10:2, 4, 31; 24:17.

3:6 *In the name.* Note the authority in the name of Jesus the Messiah. His presence and power are at work for the man. The reference to "the name" is not like a magical incantation, but is designed to indicate the agent who performs the healing. The theme is quite frequent in Acts (2:38 plus 21 other times).

3:11 Solomon's Portico was a covered walkway formed by rows of columns supporting a roof and open on the inner side facing the center of the temple complex. It was located on the east side of the temple and was a place of commerce and conversation.

3:16 *The faith that is through Jesus.* Note how this verse explains how the claim to "faith in Jesus' name" works and what it means. To appeal to the name is to point to the person. It is not clear that the man expressed faith before the miracle. This could well be a "grace-faith miracle" where God grants power through the apostles to picture how much a gift life is (Luke 17:11–19). Christology and grace are emphasized here.