

Di121 Effective Communication

Lesson Di121-23 Demonstration: Power over Sickness

This lesson is the first of four that will discuss the importance of the power of our actions in effective communications. People will remember actions much longer than just words. These lessons illustrate that the power of God can overcome the evil actions of Satan. Believers need to remember that victory over Satan's work is part of the message of salvation.

Sickness and disease began as soon as Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden. The man and the woman began to die. A person does not get sick because he has sinned. We live in a fallen world and as fallen human beings, our bodies sometimes get sick. As a witness meeting sick people, you should model what you are teaching about Jesus, our Savior and Healer. Pray with faith, expecting a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit in your ministry.

A part of the human fallen condition is sickness and weakness in our bodies. This situation is a battle some people face all through life. God wants us to know that his power is still available to us for healing, just as it is available for salvation. He wants us to be healthy physically, but more importantly, healthy spiritually.

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man who had been lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful. There he was placed every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him. So did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

The day had started for him like every other day he had had for 40 years. The crippled man was placed by his family at the entrance to the temple courts. There they hoped that concerned people would see him, and give something towards his support. His family went back home, or perhaps to work in the city or at a nearby farm. Everything was the same, except that day, two followers of Jesus saw him.

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up. But the scripture also says the lame man also had faith in the name of Jesus (Acts 3:16). Instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.

The man expected money, but he received the unexpected, his healing. Peter did not pray for the man. He gave the man what Jesus had given him, the authority to command healing. It was not Peter's power, but the authority of the Messiah. His command was "in the name, or with the authority of Jesus, walk!" Then Peter helped him up to his feet, and Jesus healed him. It came as a result of Peter and John's faith and obedience to the Spirit's direction. Through them God completely changed the beggar's life, and those of his family and friends. God is concerned for our health and even the health of unbelievers. The healed cripple realized that his healing had

come through God's power and not that of Peter or John. He praised God, who loves even beggars.

When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate. The people were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him (Acts 3:1-10).

Amazement was the response most people had when they witnessed a healing. As people approached to find out the reason for the excitement, Peter took the opportunity to tell the story of Jesus. He explained that it was "Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him" that had completely healed the lame man. He preached the gospel of Christ, his death, resurrection, and exaltation. He exhorted the listeners to repent, turn to God, and be baptized. He understood this was an opportunity to speak about the healing of the soul. Both types of healing were a part of the good news, the gospel. On that day more than 2,000 men plus many women, believed in Jesus as their Savior and healer (Acts 4:4).

The gift of healing, like the gift of faith, both come from God. They are available to believers who ask for them. We can effectively communicate God's love by making clear that God is concerned about the health of both the body and soul. His power is no less present today than in times past. The scripture tells us that, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb 13:8). As believers now, we continue to hear stories of God healing and saving the lost, just as in the past. The Bible makes clear that Jesus' death bought us healing for both our bodies and souls.

This story is **important** because it shows that Jesus was concerned for the healing of both the body and soul of each person. When Peter's miracle was followed by the story of Jesus, many people were saved.

The **main truth** of this lesson is Jesus wants us to bring both the message and the power over sickness to all human beings. God can use each of you to pray in Jesus' name and bring healing to people you meet.

Let's **review** this lesson—

1. What did we learned about God's power when the crippled man at the temple gate was healed? [Pause]
A. If you said that we learned God has power over sickness, you are correct.
2. What was the response of the beggar after he was healed by God's power? [Pause]
A. If you said, "The crippled man entered the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God," you answered correctly.
3. What was the response of Peter when a crowd gathered after the crippled man was healed? [Pause]
A. If you said, "Peter took the opportunity to tell the crowd the story of Jesus," you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to memorize the story and tell it to someone who has not heard it before. Memorize and quote to the person Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Then ask this question, “What does the verse in Hebrews mean for us today when we think about healing and effective communications?” Answer: Healing is still available to all who believe in Jesus. This truth means people still need to see the power of God as well as hear the message about Christ. It means God still cares about setting people free from the power of sickness and disease.