

First Quarter : Studies in the Lives of Peter and John

LESSON FOREWORD—Last lesson we saw the three great spear thrusts of Peter's message—Christ crucified; ascended, redeeming. To-day we see another demonstration of the new certainty that has come to Peter and John through the fact of a risen Saviour. One great proof of Christ's resurrection is found in the new Peter that has arisen.

Lesson II.

PETER AND JOHN HEAL A LAME MAN

January 11, 1920

THE LESSON PASSAGE—Acts 3 : 1-16.

1 Now Pe'ter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being the ninth hour.*

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb *was* carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Pe'ter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Pe'ter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Pe'ter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee : In the name of Je'sus Christ of Nas'a-reth rise up and walk.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up : and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength.

8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God :

10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple : and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

11 And as the lame man which was healed held Pe'ter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Sol'o-mon's, greatly wondering.

12 And when Pe'ter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Is'rael, why marvel ye at this ? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk ?

13 The God of A'b-ra-ham, and of I'saac, and of Ja'cob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Je'sus ; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pil'ate, when he was determined to let him go.

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you ;

15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead ; whereof we are witnesses.

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know : yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

GOLDEN TEXT—Freely ye received, freely give.—Matt. 10 : 8 (Rev. Ver.).

SENIOR AND HOME DEPARTMENT TOPIC—Helping Men to Help Themselves. **ADDITIONAL MATERIAL**—Matt. 10 : 7, 8 ; Mark 1 : 29-34 ; 9 : 27 ; Luke 4 : 40 ; John 14 : 12 ; 1 Peter 4 : 11.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

I. THE MIRACLE.—1-5. *Into the temple.* The separation between Judaism and Christianity



PETER HEALS A LAME MAN

had not yet come. *The ninth hour ; three o'clock. Lame from his mother's womb.* He was over forty years old. *Laid daily at the gate ;* that he might ask alms. His case is desperate and conspicuous. *Called Beautiful ;* leading to the inner court and made of Corinthian brass. *Seeing Peter and John.* To him they are only

ordinary worshipers. *Asked an alms.* This is his sole expectation. *Peter, fastening his eyes ;* looking intently as if to read him. *Gave heed . . . expecting to receive something.* Peter's manner is unusual, but it awakens hope of nothing more than a dole.

II. THE MULTITUDE.—6-11. *Silver . . . I have none ;* a poor beginning for the lame man. *Such as I have give.* Gold is not the measure of our helpfulness. Every life has some thing richer to give. Every life has some deeper need. *In the name of Jesus.* Peter glories now in the name he denied once. *Rise up ;* an undreamed of command. *Took . . . lifted ;* to help him physically and encourage his faith. *His feet . . . received strength ;* not "before" but "as" he obeyed. God helps him as he helps himself. *Into the temple ;* not home or to the street, but into God's house to give thanks. *Leaping ;* in the new