

Scripture InSight

Bible Society in Northern Ireland

Scripture Reference: Acts 3:1-10

Bible Translation: New International Version

Peter Heals the Crippled Beggar

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put 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, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and 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. 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 called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Reflections:

My wife and I were teachers in Belfast and, while I was involved in my church mission committee and we supported various mission agencies, we didn't see where we might fit overseas. However one day we read a comment on this passage in Tear Times. What hit us both – independently as it happened – was that God is not interested in what we don't have or can't do, but in using the skills and experience we have for him. Not long afterwards we joined Wycliffe Bible Translators and in September 1989, we went to teach in Vavoua International School for missionary children in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa. We were there for eight years after which we returned to N. Ireland where I have been able to use that overseas experience to promote the vision of Wycliffe that, together with partners worldwide, we aim to see a Bible translation begun for every language that needs one by 2025.



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