

May 14, 2023



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

**Lesson Leaders:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

Though Jesus doesn't heal all our health challenges, we can trust the cure for our deepest need: the healing He brings to our relationship with God

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:**

Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice that brings healing to my spiritual sickness. Help me to trust You in my physical challenges

**SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:**

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed  
**(Isa 53:5 NKJV)**

*(from "Our Daily Bread", Apr 09, 2023)*

**Series: Jesus Calls Us**

**UNIT 3: The Birth of the Church**

**NEXT WEEK**

**An Ethiopian is Baptized  
(Acts 8:29-39)**

## Jumping for Joy Acts 3:1-11

### Lesson Background and Introduction

Acts 2:42-47 summarizes the ongoing activities of the just-birtherd church in Jerusalem, which included miraculous displays after the Day of Pentecost. Those ongoing displays are described as being "many wonders and signs performed by the apostles" (Acts 2:43). Hebrews 2:4 confirms God to be the one who authenticated the truth of the gospel preaching by "signs, wonders and various miracles." Although miraculous healings obviously brought compassionate relief to the afflicted, their primary purpose was to validate the truth of Christianity in general and the person and work of Jesus in particular (see John 20:30-31). Today's lesson forms part of that larger tapestry. We are not told exactly how long the events of today's lesson occurred after the Day of Pentecost, but it was probably several weeks later. The apostles were still in Jerusalem, not having returned home to Galilee. They and the other followers of Jesus met daily in the spacious porticoes of the temple (2:46a). Activities included meeting in homes for breaking bread, fellowship meals that included celebration of the Lord's Supper (2:46b).

Over half of Jesus' miracles recorded in the Gospels involved people who were sick, blind, mute, deaf, or otherwise suffering a physical disability. This does not count summary statements where we are told Jesus "healed many" (see Mark 1:34). He cared deeply about those with physical disabilities. A word used several times to describe Jesus' attitude and actions in this regard is "compassion" (see Matthew 14:14; 15:32; 20:34; Mark 8:2). Compassion is also seen in the first-century church's acceptance of responsibility to care for those among them who were unable to care for themselves fully (Acts 2:45; 4:32-35; 6:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; etc.). The ministries extended to those whose disabilities caused them to be marginalized or ignored by others. The church of today continues to recognize and respond to such a challenge. It does so in a variety of ways; examples are the establishment of hospitals, the design of buildings that have no physical barriers restricting access, and distribution of food via pantries. Peter and John's care for the man in today's text gained the attention of others who were then eager to hear Peter's gospel message. We must conclude that was the ultimate intended result, the most important part, not the healing in and of itself. Physical disabilities last only for this life; spiritual disabilities are eternal. A church's care for those who have physical challenges should make the church attractive to unbelievers who become open to hearing the gospel and can thereby gain eternal life. What guides you and your church in ministering to persons in your midst with disabilities? If you think you have no one like this, you are not looking hard enough. Don't just feel sorry for them. Find ways for them to serve! You will be surprised at the infectious nature of the bright smile of a greeter who is confined to a wheelchair. You will learn new things when a person with disabilities shares from Scripture. As you remember that such persons need the saving message of the gospel too, you will be surprised at how valuable the ministry by such persons is (compare Mark 5:18-20)! And you will be honoring the powerful name of Jesus.

*(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)*

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **Joy Because of Help Anticipated (Acts 3:1-5)**

#### *Help anticipated through prayer (1)*

Help anticipated because through prayer that we can approach God's throne of grace (Heb 4:15-16)

Help anticipated because Jesus is our intermediary in prayer (Heb 9:11-15)

Help anticipated because Jesus is our prayer intercessor (Rom 8:34)

Help anticipated because God is faithful (1 John 1:9)

Help anticipated because God cares for us (1 Peter 5:7)

#### *Help anticipated in spite of circumstances (2)*

Help anticipated because God provides a way out of every temptation (1 Cor 10:13)

Help anticipated because regardless of circumstances we can rely on God (2 Cor 1:8-10)

Help anticipated because in all things God works for the good (Rom 8:28)

Help anticipated because God is with us (Ps 23:4)

Help anticipated because if God is for us, who can be against us (Rom 8:31)

#### *Help anticipated through sincere faith (3-5)*

Help anticipated through sincere faith because faith develops perseverance (James 1:3-4)

Help anticipated through sincere faith because even small faith accomplishes much (Matt 17:20)

Help anticipated through faith because Jesus promised answers and deliverance (Matt 21:21-22)

Help anticipated through sincere faith because everything is possible for those who have faith (Mark 9:23)

Help anticipated through sincere faith because Jesus promised it (Mark 11:22)

### **Joy Because of Healing Accomplished (Acts 3:6-11)**

#### *Healing accomplished through the Name of Jesus (6)*

Healing through the Name of Jesus because it is one of the signs of those who believe (Mark 16:17-18)

Healing through the Name of Jesus because it is the only power that heals (Acts 4:7-10)

Healing through the Name of Jesus, but it cannot be used by human will (Acts 19:13-16)

Healing through the Name of Jesus and the faith that comes through Him (Acts 3:16)

#### *Healing accomplished should result in praising God (7-9)*

Praising God because we should never forget God's benefits (Ps 103:1-3)

Praising God because we should always give thanks to God for His unfailing love (Ps 107:20-21)

Praising God because it is appropriate and right (Luke 17:15-18)

Praising God because it allows others to praise God too (Luke 18:42-43)

#### *Healing accomplished is always amazing (10-11)*

Amazement that helps spread the news of the goodness of God (Luke 4:36-37)

Amazement at the greatness of God (Luke 9:43)

Amazement at how much God loves (John 5:20)

Amazement at how God does everything perfectly (Mark 7:37)

Amazement that should lead to faith in God (John 12:9-11)