

Peter, John and the Lame Man

Peter, John and the Lame Man.....	1
Scene Summary	1
Scripture.....	1
Players.....	2
Special Props.....	2
Script – Peter, John and the Lame Man	3
Supplemental Information	5
Song: “Silver and gold have I none”.....	5

Scene Summary

Peter, John and the lame man presents the dramatic story of the healing of the lame beggar and the amazement of the Jews. Scenes include: friends leave the lame man near the Temple gate...Jews going to the Temple give the beggar alms...Peter and John speak to the beggar...Peters commands him in the name of Jesus to walk...the man's feet and legs are strengthened...he walks and leaps for joy...he goes into the Temple courtyard with Peter and John...the Jews stare in amazement...Peter tells the Jews that God has healed the man and that through His Son Jesus, He forgives sins.

Scripture

(Acts 3 NIV) One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. {2} 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. {3} When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. {4} Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" {5} So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. {6} 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." {7} Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. {8} He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. {9} When all the people saw him walking and praising God, {10} 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. {11} While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. {12} When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? {13} The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. {14} You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. {15} You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. {16} By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and

know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. {17} "Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. {18} But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. {19} Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, {20} and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you--even Jesus. {21} He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. {22} For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. {23} Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.' {24} "Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. {25} And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' {26} When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. NIV®. Copyright©1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Players

- **Lame man** – A lame beggar dressed in ragged clothes.
- **Friend 1, 2** – These help the lame man to the temple gate.
- **Peter** – Lead character, a disciple of Jesus.
- **John** – Accompanies Peter, a disciple of Jesus.
- **Person 1, 2, 3, 4, 5** – Crowd of people at the temple.

Special Props

- Normal items from the prop box such as cloaks, veils, robes and headdresses.
- A cane or crutch for the lame.

Script – Peter, John and the Lame Man

Friend 1: Well come back to take you home later.

Friend 2: I wish there was something that a cripple man could do to earn a living. It must be hard to sit there every day and beg.

Lame man: [holding out his hands] Help the poor. Give to the poor.

Person 1: [giving a coin] Here you are.

Lame man: Thank you, thank you. [holding out his hands again] Help the poor. Give to the poor.

Person 2: I always give to beggars. They need help.

Person 3: I think God is pleased when we give to the poor.

Person 4: If I ever needed help, I hope God will send someone to give to me.

Lame man: [holding out his hands] Help the poor. Give to the poor.

Person 4: Here's some money for you.

Lame man: Thank you.

Person 5: Here is some money. Everyone can see how generous I am in giving to this poor beggar. Not many people give as much to the poor as I do.

Lame man: [to himself] My back hurts and I'm so tired. Why can't I have strong legs like other people? Then I could work and not have to sit here near the temple and beg. [pause] Here comes some more people. It must be near 3 o'clock, near prayer time. I wish I could walk into the temple with the others. [pause, then holding out his hands] Help the poor. Give to the poor.

Peter and John: Look on us!

Lame man: [holding out his hands] Help the poor. Give to the poor.

Peter: Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.

Lame man: [sadly] You can see that I'm a cripple. I've never walked in my life.

Peter: I will help you stand.

[John reaching down to help the man up]

Lame man: [excited] I can do it! I can stand. My feet, my legs, they are strong! [jumping up and down, a bit shaky at first.] Look! [shouting] Look! I'm standing for the first time in my life. I can walk, I can walk! Look at me! My friends won't have to carry me anymore. I won't have to beg anymore. I can do work like other people. Oh, Thank God, I can walk.

Peter: Come into the temple with us.

Lame man: Now at last I can go into the temple as other people do. Thank God I can walk. I can go into God's house. Thank God for my strong legs.

Person 1: [pointing] Look at that man. Why is he jumping and leaping and so excited?

Person 2: It looks like that beggar that sits on a mat outside the gate.

Person 3: [unsure] I can't be. That beggar is crippled. He can't walk much less run and jump.

Person 4: [skeptical] This can't be the beggar. His friends carried him each day and laid him by the gate. He has been there begging for years. He is crippled. He cannot walk.

Person 1: [excited] Look at the beggar. He is walking!

Person 2: [excited] It is the beggar!

Person 3: [excited] Come see the crippled beggar. He is walking.

Person 4: But who has made him well? This is a great miracle.

Peter: [strongly] God's power has made this man well. God sent His Son Jesus to do something for you too. He will forgive your sins and wants you to love Him and your neighbor. Obey God and forgive one another.

The End

Supplemental Information

Beggars were often seen in Jewish communities. Many people were very proud of their gifts to the poor. Usually they gave generously and wanted others to see how much money they gave. Many people believed that God wanted them to give to the poor. Some people wrongly believed that giving to the poor would take away their sins and if they gave to the poor then God would be more likely to help them when they need help.

The beggar in this story was crippled from birth. Every day friends had to carry him to the large and beautiful gate of the temple. As people went to the temple, they sometimes stopped and give money. The work on the temple began approximately 19 years before Jesus was born. The main structure, made of cream color stones, was ready in about 10 years. It took 83 years to complete this temple and at the time of this story, work was still going on.

Surrounding the temple was a large stonewalls that formed the court of the Gentiles. Attached to the wall was a roof supported by rows of tall columns. This area, inside the courtyard was called a porch. Here the scribes had their schools and the money changers had their booths. We do not know for sure what time that Peter and John arrived at the temple that day, but it was probably about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. That was the time for the afternoon prayers and many people would be going into the temple.

People coming toward Jerusalem could see the beautiful Temple of cream stone and gold for a great distance. It was started nineteen years before Christ was born, but it was not completed until thirty-one years after His crucifixion. It took eighty-three years to build it, its courts and walls.

Inside the walls, large pillars supported a roof. The area covered by the roof was called a porch. One area, was known as Solomon's Porch. Here the men came to talk and to debate. Some stood and listened to the others. Here too, the moneychangers had their booths. There were several kinds of money in those days. The Roman government put out Roman coins. Many cities or areas had their own money. Sometimes the Jews made their own money. A man with money from his town or area, or Roman money, would exchange his money for Jewish money at the moneychanger's booth. Jews had to pay money to the Temple every year and could use only the Jewish half-shekels. The money changes often charged a high price to exchange the money. Also on Solomon's Porch, the scribes held their schools.

The porches and outer court of the Temple were very busy places. It was here that the people saw the lame beggar who had been healed.

Song: “Silver and gold have I none”

^G Peter and John went to ^C pray;
They ^{D7}met a lame man on the ^G way,

He asked for alms – and ^Cheld out his palms
And ^{D7}this is what Peter did ^Gsay:
Silver and gold have I ^Cnone,
But ^{D7}such as I have give I ^Gthee,
In the name of Jesus ^CChrist
Of ^{D7}Nazareth, rise up and ^Gwalk.
He wend walking and leaping and ^{D7}praising God,
Walking and leaping and ^Gpraising God,
In the name of Jesus ^CChrist
Of ^{D7}Nazareth, rise up and ^Gwalk.