

## Jacob's Well



**Lesson Title:** Where He Finds Us—At the Optimal Point



**Key Concept:** Wherever we are, in any situation, God can find us. Though we may long for him to move the way *we* want, *he* intervenes at the optimal point.



**Scriptures:**

The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. But Peter said, “I don’t have any silver or gold for you. But I’ll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!”  
(Acts 3:5–6 *New Living Translation*)

But many of those who had listened to the message believed, and the number of the men came to about 5,000.  
(Acts 4:4 *New English Translation*)

**Context Scriptures:** Acts 2:22; Acts 3:1–11; Acts 4:14; Acts 4:16



**Lesson Thoughts:**

In a society where disabled infants were often discarded or abandoned, and adults with handicaps were relegated to begging for food, feeling insignificant was probable among the infirm. This category of people was viewed as outcasts, society’s burden, economic liabilities, and pariahs who were deserving of their circumstance—a byproduct of sin. Unable to contribute to society, they were overlooked and disregarded. The lame man in Acts 3 was no exception.

Stationed daily at the temple gate in the paths of passersby, the mental and emotional state of the lame man might be questioned. Had he heard about the man who was causing the lame to walk, the blind to see, and the dead to be raised? Had he heard of the miracles that took place inside the temple he was stationed outside of? Did he feel too unworthy to cry out to the miracle-worker who undoubtedly passed him by?

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No matter the case, the glimmer of hope the lame man may have held would have been dashed upon word of the Miracle-worker's death. Resigned to his position in society, all he had left to hope for was money, as evinced by his request of Peter and John (Acts 3:3). He had missed his opportunity. But, at his lowest low, in a place of shame and hopelessness, hope sprang afresh! The Apostles showed up at a divinely appointed time and brought healing and restoration. Jesus, in effect, had taken notice of him but reserved his healing for the optimal time. Walking, and leaping, and praising God, the healed man entered the temple with Peter and John. Temple-goers who witnessed his state of disability also bore witness to his physical restoration.

This miraculous act served as a vital spark in the following chain of events. Peter used the attention this drew to preach to the crowd, pointing them to Jesus—the source of this healing. Ultimately, this led to thousands being added to the Kingdom. The church grew in unity and boldness, even in the face of persecution. God was not late! He intervened at the optimal point in the life of the lame man and in the birth of the church.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Think of a time when God moved in your life. How did it impact you? How did it impact others around you?
- 2) Were you ever grateful in hindsight that God did not answer your prayer the way you wanted? What would have been the outcome of God moving in your way instead of his?
- 3) Share a time when you wanted to ask for help, but feelings of insignificance or unworthiness silenced you.
- 4) Share a time when God gave you more than you asked for.

**Next Lesson:** Faithfully Serving

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**Notes and Reflections**

- 1) Read Acts 2–4. Pay special attention to the importance of the chain of events from the Holy Spirit's outpouring on the Day of Pentecost in chapter 2, to the healing of the lame man and Peter's segue into spreading the gospel in Acts 3–4.
- 2) Take a moment to reflect on the prayers in your life that have not yet come to pass. Ask yourself, "Do I trust God's timing?"

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**Notes and Reflections, cont.**