

THE STORY OF PETER And THE STORY OF RUTH

Aunt Hattie's Bible Stories

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by

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CHAPTER TEN

PETER GIVES OUT A CURE

LIVING in Jerusalem at that time was a man forty years old who was born lame. He had never been able to walk. His family was poor and could not support him. So they carried him every day and laid him down on the pavement near the steps leading up to the Beautiful Gate of the Temple that he might beg from those who went to worship.

Sometime after the Day of Pentecost, Peter and John went up to the Temple to prayer meeting. When they came to the gate the lame man held out his hand and asked for some money.

They stopped and looked at the crippled fellow and then Peter said to him, "Look into our faces." I suppose the man was accustomed to hang his head in a pathetic way.

Now he was all attention and eagerly looked at them as much as to say, "This is something new. I wonder if I am to get a bigger handout than usual."

Then Peter put himself and John on the same financial plane with the lame man, for he said, "**Silver and gold have I none.**" Perhaps the lame man said to himself, "Disappointed again, and I do need the money so much."

But Peter went on to say, "I am going to give you of that which I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

This man, who had never walked, must have thought that Peter had lost his mind. But Peter reached down and took the man's hand in his and lifted him up and—oh, joy!—he felt the blood rush through his ankle bones and strength and healing come at once.

Could he walk? Oh, yes! But walking was much too slow! So he ran and jumped and, shouted his praises to God.

Praises to God? It was Peter who had healed him. Yes, God used Peter and John, but it was God's power that had done the work and that is a great thought to me. Peter had healed the man in such a way as to let the man understand that it was not his power, but God's power.

The news of the healing of the lame man spread quickly throughout Jerusalem and came to the ears of the Sadducees, the priests, and the captain of the Temple. It was the same miserable group of men who had so hated the Lord Jesus and caused His death.

It was the business of the captain of the Temple to see that nothing was done in the Temple to desecrate it. While the Jews were under Roman rule, it was their privilege to sentence to death any who violated the rules of the Temple or disgraced it.

Let us pretend again that we were in Jerusalem that day.

"I came to report to you, most honorable Sadducees, that two men, Peter and John, disciples of Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified a few weeks ago, have healed a man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. They are preaching the resurrection from the dead," states the captain to the Jewish leaders.

"We will go at once and see about this. They should be killed for defaming our sacred Temple by preaching such heresy."

With hatred in their hearts, these usually dignified rulers hasten to the Beautiful Gate of the Temple. Making their way through the joyous crowd of rejoicing people, they come to Peter and John and, laying hands upon them, command them saying, "Come with us." They lead them away and put them in prison.

But the Word of the Lord had gone forth through the Spirit-filled disciples and five thousand of those who heard accepted Christ as their Saviour.

The great throng of Christians filled the very air of the old city with praises and thanksgiving to Jesus Christ the Lord.

Over in the prison, I think, Peter and John sang praises, too, for in spite of their imprisonment they had a glorious day, filled with joy and gladness.

~ end of chapter 10 ~

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