



**SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN**

**MESSAGE TITLE: A 3-PARTS PLAY**

**SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS**

**DATE: SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020**

## MESSAGE SUMMARY

### **BIBLICAL TEXT(S): Acts 3:1-4:21**

In this week's passage we find the story of Peter healing a lame man. This miraculous event caused quite a stir. Pastor Brad explains that there are three sets of characters in this story who represent three aspects of God's work: some were the disrupters, some were disrupted, and some were disturbed. Peter and the other apostles were the ones God was working through to make a disruption. The man who was healed and the crowd who witnessed his restoration had their lives disrupted in a positive sense by the work of God. Even better, they came to know God through it. Sadly, the religious leaders were simply disturbed by this work of God. They saw it as a threat to their power and security. These same roles and responses are available to us today because God is still working in our time.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably*

### **LEAN IN**

***These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What has been the biggest disruption in your life during the pandemic?
2. Do you ever put your phone on do not disturb mode? When/why do you do this?
3. Have you ever experienced a disruption that ended up being a good thing? What happened?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

### **LOOK DOWN**

***These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. What did the beggar in this story ask for? What does Peter do for him instead?
2. What does Peter accuse the crowd of doing? How does he say God used their actions? What does he call them to do in response?
3. How do people (the man, the crowds, the religious leaders, Peter) respond to the man's healing? What motivates them to respond the way they do?

*cont.*

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4. What does the text tell us about Peter's response when he's put on trial by the religious authorities? How would you sum up his response in your own words?
5. What are the religious leaders' thoughts on Peter and John and what do they ask them to do? What was Peter's and John's reaction to this request? What reasoning do they give for this response?

**LOOK OUT**

***These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. How have you seen God provide more than was expected in the lives of those you know? How have you seen the church follow God's example and give those in the community more than they expect? If you haven't seen this in the church, why do you think this is the case?
2. Have you ever seen God use a really bad decision someone you know (or know of) made in an amazing way? What happened?
3. How have you seen people today (those in the church and those outside of it) respond to God's work in the world today, particularly in circumstances that seem miraculous? How are the responses similar or different to the groups mentioned in this story?
4. Peter and John's arrest gave them the opportunity to preach the Gospel in front of more people. Have you seen something similar happen in our own world or in recent history?
5. How are people in today's world (in our own country and around the world) told not to "speak no longer to anyone in this name" (the name of Jesus)? What does this text teach us about how we should respond to this?

**LOOK IN**

***These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.***

1. How has God provided for you in ways you never expected? How might he be calling you to provide for others in a similar fashion? What could that look like in your life?
2. Have you ever made a bad decision that God has used for your good and his glory? What happened? How has that shaped your view of God's power? How has it impacted your ability to trust God completely?
3. How do you respond when people claim God has done something miraculous? Which group mentioned in this story does your response

*cont.*

**CONTINUED:**

most closely resemble? How does this story encourage or challenge you in this way?

4. Do you see difficulties and “persecutions” as a punishment or as a potential opportunity for God to use you? Why? Does this story change your thoughts at all and if so, how?
5. What do you think it looks like in today’s world to respond to those who are opposed to faith or even are just opposed to you? How do we balance boldness (like Peter and John showed), grace (which God shows us all), and respect (particularly in regards to political powers, see Romans 13)?

**LIVE IT OUT**

***These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.***

1. What’s one thing you can do this week to provide for someone beyond their expectations?
2. Do you identify more with the disrupted, the disruptor, or the disturbed? If you’re not where you want to be in that, how can your group pray for you as you seek to see God at work and be used by him?
3. What does it look like in your life right now to balance boldness, grace, and respect while interacting with those who might be treating you unfairly?

*Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.*

# When the world turned upside down

"3 PARTS PLAY" - Acts 3:1-4:21 - MAY 24<sup>th</sup> 2020

BRAD WILLIAMS

Acts outlines the early church. We get to see what happens when people begin to live their lives with God's Spirit and purpose. We see specific people in certain roles that we can relate to even now. The same kinds of people making the same kinds of responses today. We can ask "WHAT ROLE AM I PLAYING?" When we realize that this is MY story too it's good and also challenging.

READ Acts 3-4:21

A lame man asks for \$, Peter says "I don't have \$, but I do have this..." & the man is healed! The man leaps & celebrates & worships!

A crowd comes and is utterly astonished! They recognized the man.

Peter starts connecting the dots for the crowd. That Jesus is real & was resurrected!

While Peter was preaching, they get arrested... BUT 5,000 people believed!

Then Peter filled with the Holy Spirit preaches to their accusers the next day!

The accusers saw Peter's boldness & recognized they had been with Jesus. The accusers can't deny what they saw & heard, but threatened them to stop preaching & spreading the word.

## The DISRUPTED

- These are the ones who are being woken up! Coming out of slumber.
- This is a good role to be in!
- The lame man is in this role.
- He has a way of life he is used to.
- He asks for what he wants BUT HE GETS WHAT HE NEEDS!
- When you see things happening in your life that can only be accounted to HIM - you are being disrupted!!!
- Your only choice is to WORSHIP HIM.

Are you letting GOD mess with you enough that you have reason to PRAISE HIM?

## The DISRUPTORS

- These are the men & women God uses to mix things up for His Kingdom.
- Peter would love to have the money to help this man, but instead he simply makes himself available to be USED BY GOD.
- A radical, loving, gracious, serving, sacrificial group of people living lives that are animated by the Spirit of God are GOING to cause a BEAUTIFUL DISRUPTION!
- Are you available for God to work through you?

## The DISTURBED

- The disturbed have a very different response - it's one of annoyance.
  - They are annoyed that things are being changed, something is trying to pull them out of their comfort.
  - These people do not see their participation in the injustices of their comfortable lives
  - When someone comes to open their eyes to this - they get annoyed
- Are you annoyed by God changing things in your life?

MAY YOU BE OPEN TO BEING DISRUPTED.  
MAY YOU BE AVAILABLE TO BE THE DISRUPTION.  
MAY YOU RESIST BEING DISTURBED.