

Outreach



Outreach

Reaching
Those Who
Are
Suffering



Acts 3 - 4



- For the lame man, as well as for Peter and John, it was a normal day.
 - The lame man was begging.
 - Peter and John were preaching the Gospel.
- Their encounter was by chance.
 - They simply crossed each others path that morning.
- When the lame man asked for their help, he never imagined the help he would receive.
- The miracle performed served to convince many to obey Jesus but the event was prompted by taking the Gospel to those who suffer!

Acts 3 - 4



- The answer the lame man received from Peter and John was unexpected:
 - 3:6a But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold,”
- The lame man must have thought, “Well I look for someone else to help me.”

Acts 3 - 4



- But Peter quickly continued:
 - 3:6b “but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”
- That was certainly more than he expected!
 - He stood, walked and leaped.
- It was not a normal day, the Gospel touched a lost and suffering soul!
- The story doesn’t end here.

Acts 3 - 4



- The lame man went about praising God.
- Peter addressed the assembling crowd.
 - 3:12 And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?”
- Why do you wonder? Why do you stare at us?
 - They took no credit for the events that day.

Acts 3 - 4



- Peter continued:
 - 3:13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.
- He preached Jesus to them, and many responded in obedience.

Acts 3 - 4




- Peter and John were arrested and taken before the Sanhedrin where they were told to stop speaking about Jesus.

Acts 3 - 4



- Peter and John responded to their demands by saying:
 - 4:19-20 But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”



courage

- Not long before this event Peter had denied Jesus.
- When Christ was crucified, the Apostles went into hiding.
- The resurrection changed them.
- On Pentecost and afterward they manifested courage rather than cowardice.
- We require courage as well to proclaim Jesus to the lost and the suffering.
- We have their example and Scripture to give us courage.
 - 1 Cor. 15:1-8



No matter the physical condition, one's spiritual conditions must be addressed.

Peter and John were concerned for the lost and recognized the opportunity to help the suffering.



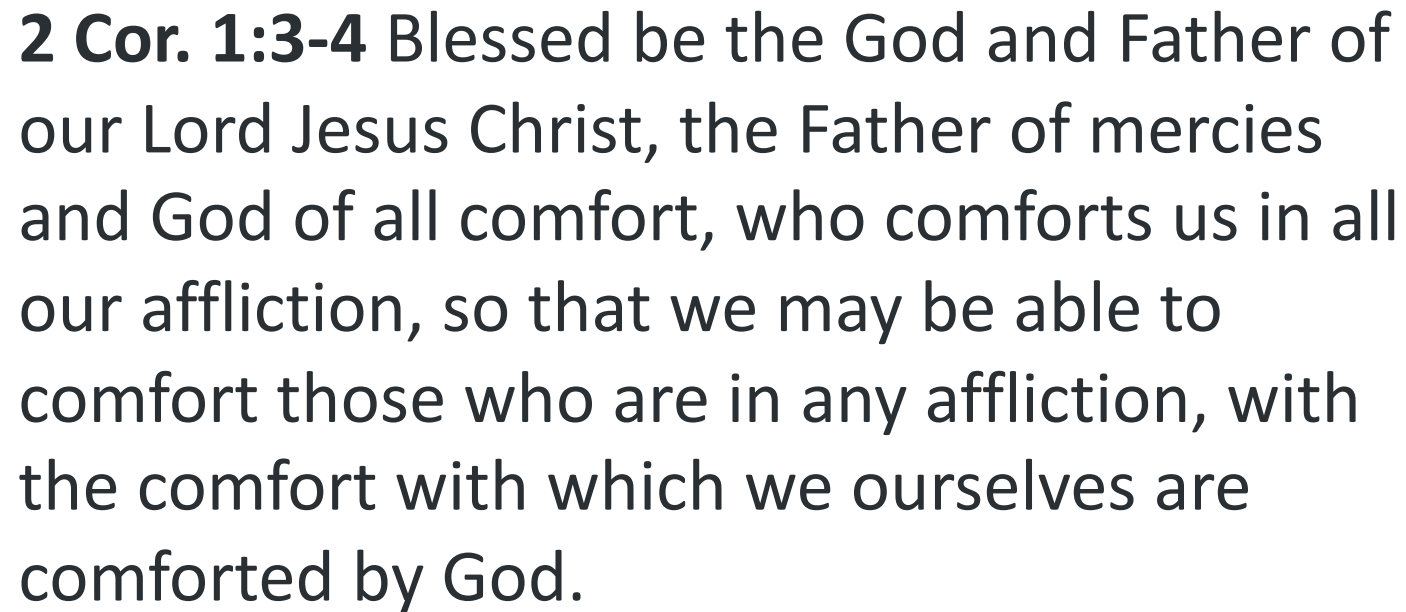


- The correct spiritual condition will help one endure any physical condition they encounter.
- They may continue to suffer physically but they will be equipped with the power of prayer to help.

- We may react to someone suffering by offering money and miss the opportunity to give them something of much more value.
- They need the Gospel more than anything else.
- Fear of rejection may cause us to hesitate in sharing the Gospel.
- Trust in the power of the Gospel and God's role in spreading it. Rom. 1:16; Isa. 55:10-11; 1 Cor. 3:6-7



God's Word provides the answers we need for ourselves and others.

An open Bible is shown lying flat on a dark, textured wooden surface. The pages are slightly aged and yellowed. A white rectangular text box is centered over the open pages, containing a Bible verse. The text is in a clean, black, sans-serif font. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the Bible and the text box.

2 Cor. 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Can you tell someone how God has helped you through challenges in your life?

Conclusion

- Will tomorrow be a normal day for you and those you encounter, or will you make it a special day?
- Motivated by compassion for others, let us seek to share how God has helped us through suffering to aid others with the same help.