



# DAILY BREAD

FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 22, 2010

**This week's assigned reading: Acts 3 and 4.**

Comments on the assigned reading:

The author of the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts sees continuity of the mission of God all the way since Old Testament times, most powerfully through the ministry of Jesus, and into the present through the church. Hence, when the Apostle Peter healed the blind man at the Temple gate (Acts 3:1-10), he was continuing the ministry that had started long before him.

Just as the prophets of the Old Testament, as well as Jesus, Peter and John were hauled before the authorities where they had to give an account of themselves. Eventually, they would be put on trial and condemned. In other words, the experiences of the apostles in the early church are echoes of what had happened to Jesus and the prophets.

Considering that the Gospel of Luke traces Jesus' journey towards Jerusalem, culminating in the Temple, by contrast, the Book of Acts in the first few chapters has the Temple as its setting. However, as this story unfolds, the Temple recedes from prominence.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

Peter was very clear that he was able to heal the blind man (Acts 3:1-10), not by his own power, but only by God's power working through him. How have you been a vehicle for God's power at work in the world?

The apostles included uneducated men who courageously proclaimed saving power of Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection. They did this with a sense of urgency so that they could not restrain themselves. When was the last time you boldly gave witness to Jesus? What are the obstacles to doing that?

The early Christians "were of one heart and soul" and "everything they owned was held in common" (Acts 4:32). Theologian Justo González suggests that this does not mean that they formed some kind of communistic society. On the other hand, they did see to it that "there was not a needy person among them" (Acts 4:34). In what ways does Galilee fulfill this vision of tending to the needy and contributing to the common good?

Suggestions for prayer:

Pray that the church gives a bold witness throughout the world. Pray for those Christians in Afghanistan, Sudan, and other countries where they are persecuted on account of their faith. Pray also for those of us living in more secularized countries that we give a bold witness in a society that believes faith is irrelevant and foolish.

Give a prayer of thanksgiving for all those who participated in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk for the Cure of Breast Cancer last weekend. We pray for all those who are struggling with breast cancer and for their families. We also give thanks for those who are cancer survivors.