

## **The Restoration of All Things**

There is so much brokenness in this world. Innocent suffering. Unspeakable evil. War. Natural disasters. Such things raise all sorts of questions: Does God see? Does God care? Will there be a day when such things end? Does Scripture talk about such things? The fact is there are many passages in Scripture that talk about a day when God will come in power and restore all things in the world. In our passage today, Luke indicates that the healing of the lame man points to the truth that Jesus is the remedy for all the suffering we experience in life. Just like Jesus restored the man, one day he will restore all things in this world and in our lives.

**Opening Discussion:** What is one area of your life that you long to have restored?

### **Read Acts 3:1-10**

1. How does Luke describe the man that Peter and John encounter as they are going to the temple?
2. How do Peter and John respond to the lame beggar's request for alms?
3. What is the significance of Peter saying, "in the name of Jesus Christ," as he heals the man (v. 6)?
4. Isaiah 35 is a passage that looks forward to the day when God will come in power to restore all things. Read Isaiah 35:5-6. How do we see Luke connecting Jesus' healing of this man to the Isaiah passage?

### **Read Acts 3:11-26**

5. With the crowd gathered, Peter explains that the miracle was a sign that pointed to the remedy for the entire world and everyone who would accept it. The same Jesus that restored the man would one day "restore all things" (v. 21). But before he gets there, Peter begins with the bad news. What is the "bad news" that Peter delivers to the people (vv. 12-16)?

6. Why was it important for Peter to help the people have a deep understanding of the “bad news” before he gets to the good news?
  
7. Peter not only presents that bad news to the crowd; he also offers hope. What is the good news that Peter proclaims about what the people would experience if they repented (vv. 19-21)?

Steve said:

If you are already a follower of Jesus, please understand that God calls us to an ongoing ***lifestyle of repentance***. We are fully forgiven when we first believe; but we experience ongoing cleansing and ***times of refreshing from the Lord*** as we continue to turn from our sin when it's revealed . . . That's what I want for myself and that's what I want for you. In this life while we wait for God to send Jesus from heaven to restore all things, we are called to adopt a lifestyle of repentance so that we can experience times of refreshing from the Lord.

8. Would you say that you practice a lifestyle of repentance?
  
9. In what ways have you experienced this truth that repentance leads to times of refreshing from the Lord?
  
10. In his message, Peter gives assurance that the restoration of the entire created order (v. 21) is Jesus' final remedy for everything that's wrong in this world, including all the innocent suffering we experience. How might it encourage you to live with hope in this broken world knowing that this promised restoration is coming?