Peter Heals a Lame Beggar

CHARACTERS: Peter, John, Beggar, high priest, temple guards, crowd
COSTUMES: Biblical
PROPS: none specified
SETTING: temple courts
RUN TIME: 4 minutes
SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Acts 3
FK reading level: 4.5

At rise: Temple courts contain people talking in small groups, others moving about and center stage, a BEGGAR asking for money. PETER and JOHN enter stage right, cross, stopping at BEGGAR.

BEGGAR: Alms for the poor! *(to PETER & JOHN)* Kind sirs, some coin, please.

PETER: Look at us! *(BEGGAR gives them his full attention, expecting to get something from them)* Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk! *(PETER takes BEGGAR by the right hand to help him up. BEGGAR stands, tentatively at first, then stepping, finally jumping for joy. As he does, crowd gathers up stage of him to marvel and praise God)*

BEGGAR: Praise the Lord! I can stand! I can walk! Praise the almighty One of Israel!

CROWD PERSON 1: I recognize him. He's the lame man who used to sit begging.

CROWD PERSON 2: Are you sure?

CROWD PERSON 1: I'm positive.

CROWD PERSON 2: How did it happen he came to walk?

During PETER'S speech, one CROWD member will exit to return with Temple Personnel

PETER: *(loudly)* Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. *Crowd settles down, some closer to PETER sit; all listen attentively.*

(less loudly) You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you.

You killed the author of life, *(shouting with triumph)* but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this.

TEMPLE personnel arrive and listen

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By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. *PETER motions toward the man who is standing, still shifting his weight in joy. CROWD looks at the BEGGAR then back to PETER*

It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see. *PRIEST is angered and motions to guards he wants PETER and JOHN arrested)*

Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. *(PRIEST is outraged at being considered ignorant)* But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

HIGH PRIEST points and GUARDS arrest PETER & JOHN. Crowd backs away in fear, last of all the BEGGAR who is being pulled by well- meaning friends. PETER & JOHN are arrested and exit with Temple Personnel.

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