



A LAME MAN WHO JUMPS FOR JOY

Slide 1

On Ascension Day, **Slide 2** you may not be going to school because it is a public holiday in many countries, but what happened that day? Do you remember? **Slide 3** Jesus returned to heaven; that's why we can't see Him. But do you know He continues to act? He hasn't changed: what He did when He was on earth, bless, heal, save, **Slide 4** He still does today. He had said to his disciples: **Slide 5** "In my name you will do great miracles." Well, now we're going to find out about the first healing that was done in His Name after Ascension. **Slide 6** You will find this account in the Book **Slide 7** of the Acts of the Apostles at the beginning of chapter 3.

Slide 8 THE FIRST HEALING

Slide 9 Some inhabitants of Jerusalem arrive at the Temple with a friend whose eyes are filled with sadness.

Slide 10 - Shall we leave you here, near that door? They tell him.

Slide 11 - Yes! Put me down there!

- We'll come back and get you tonight. **Slide 12** Let's hope people will give you some coins!

- I don't know, we'll see.

Slide 13 He sits on the floor and he holds out his hand. But why doesn't he go and work with the others, he's only forty years old? Because it is impossible for him! When he was born, his mum and dad learned that their little boy would never be able **Slide 14** to walk, jump or run. His legs and ankles don't carry him. He is crippled, handicapped. He always remains seated **Slide 15** or lying down. If he wants to go somewhere, he has to wait until someone is willing to carry him. He has **Slide 16** to beg, but many times **Slide 17** people walk past him without even looking at him.

Slide 18 It is three in the afternoon, and on that day **Slide 19** Peter and John are going up to the Temple to pray. They are going to find the disciples of Jesus who are more and more numerous since the Holy Spirit descended on them on the day of Pentecost. They will worship God.

Slide 20 The beggar sees them. He holds out his hand.

Slide 21 - Please! A few coins! I need them to eat!

Peter and John stop. They look at him attentively and Peter says to him:

Slide 22 - Look at us!

The cripple raises his head and fixes on them a hopeful look. Certainly **Slide 23** these men will give me something, he thinks. Maybe they are rich? He expects to see them take out a few coins.

Peter says to him: **Slide 24** - I have neither silver nor gold!

Imagine! In a fraction of a second his hope disappears.

- I have neither silver nor gold, but I have something else and I offer it to you: **Slide 25** in the name of Jesus: get up and walk!

While speaking, Peter takes him by the right hand and helps him stand up. Immediately his legs and ankles become firm and strong. **Slide 26** With a leap, he's on his own two feet, and now he starts **Slide 27** walking, jumping, running. He jumps for joy and cries out:

Slide 28 - Glory to God! Glory to God! But look! Look! I can walk, I can jump, I can run, this is the first time in my life! He comes and goes without stopping on his brand new legs. He enters the courtyard of the Temple with Peter and John, singing the praises of God out loud.

- Glory to God! He is wonderful! **Slide 29** I am cured! It's a miracle!

People look at him in amazement.

- But, this man, **Slide 30** he looks like the cripple we always see sitting near the door of the Temple!

Slide 31 - Yes! It's him! I recognize him. What does that mean? I'm impressed!

- Me too!

Word of this healing is spreading and people are flocking from everywhere.

Slide 32 - Let's go and see what's going on! They are under Solomon's portico!

- I am coming with you!

They are all excited, surprised but also amazed. They do not understand and wonder:

Slide 33 - How is it that this cripple can walk?

Slide 34 - Did God heal him?

Slide 35 - I rather believe that these two men next to him did it?

Slide 36 Peter gets up. He wants to answer their questions. Speaking to this crowd about Jesus, he knows he is running the risk of being arrested by the leaders of the Temple, but he is not afraid, he is filled with the Holy Spirit. He says:

Slide 37 - Why are you so surprised? Why are you looking at us as if we made this man

walk? **Slide 38** We have no power **Slide 39** but it was in the name of Jesus **Slide 40** that he was healed. You condemned Jesus, you killed him, but as you can see, **Slide 41** God raised him up, He is alive. **Slide 42** This healing proves it to you. He came to earth to give his life so that you don't persevere in your wickedness, in your sins, to save you. So repent and believe in him.

Slide 43 They listen to Peter with great attention, their hearts are touched. They understand how mean they have been. Many had probably been among those who had called for Jesus' death. **Slide 44** They did not believe in his resurrection, but before this great miracle done in the name of Jesus, they change their attitude and **Slide 45** ask God for forgiveness for their evil hearts. They believe in Jesus and become His disciples. And the man who was **Slide 46** crippled, what becomes of him? Of course, he will soon be one of Jesus' disciples; he stays with the apostles, he is so happy, his life is totally changed.

Slide 47 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

If you had asked this crippled man what he needed, what would he have said?

Slide 48 *I need some money to buy food! Peter did not give him **Slide 49** a coin but what he gave him, in the name of Jesus, was worth more than all the gold in the world. Did you understand why? I suggest **Slide 50** you think about it on your own or with your parents, your friends. You can imagine **Slide 51** this man's life after he was healed, what he did, where he went, what he said and what he didn't say, what he believed. Everything was changed. **Slide 52** And you, today, do you believe that Jesus is alive, **Slide 53** that He loves you and **Slide 54** that He still works miracles?*

Slide 55 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

*"In the name of Jesus" is not a magic formula that would bring blessing from God. When Jesus asks to pray in His Name for the healing of the sick, He is speaking to His disciples, **Slide 56** believers who are true to His Word, filled with the Holy Spirit. The healing of this crippled man is the first miracle after Ascension, but it is not the last. It is written that "there were many wonders and miracles done by the apostles, and the Lord added daily to the Church those who were being saved." I encourage you to share recent testimonies of healings with your children, which will strengthen their faith and make them happy.*

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