

Peter and John Get in Trouble for Healing in Jesus' Name

About 5 minutes, from Acts 3:1-17; 4:1-21

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Peter

John

Beggar

Priest

Prompter Shout a brief line and Echoes repeat it.

Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Peter John, it's dangerous for us to come here to the temple to pray,
but I feel that God wants us to do it.

John I think so too, Peter.
Well, here we are. I hope we do not run into more trouble.
Oh! Here is that same poor beggar.

Beggar Alms, Gentlemen! I beg you!
I've been lame from birth. Please!

Peter Look at us! We have no silver or gold,
but what we have, we give you:
In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, be healed!

Prompter & Echoes Stand and walk!

John Look, Peter, all at once his feet and ankles grew strong!

Beggar Look! I am standing! Oh! I can walk!

Peter He's entering the temple with us, leaping and praising God.

Beggar Look out! Those priests look angry!

Priest We priests cannot allow this!
Those men say they healed that beggar
in the name of the Nazarene.
Now, look at his friends come running!
We cannot allow such disturbance by those rebels,
especially not here in God's holy temple!

John Peter, the beggar's friends are amazed at seeing him walk.
The priests also knew him. Look. They are glaring at us.

Beggar This means trouble.

Peter Why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power
we made this man walk?

Prompter & Echoes Who made him walk?

John The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has glorified his servant Jesus. He is the one whom you disowned when Pilate wanted to release him. You put to death the Prince of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses. The name of Jesus has strengthened this man.

Priest Captain of the Guard! Come quickly!
These rebels are disturbing the people again.
Against our orders, they claim that the Nazarene rose from the dead.

John They jail Peter and me, but many who hear us believe.
The next day, the high priest and his officers question us,
and the healed man comes.

Beggar Peter and John, I will stand with you.

Priest By what power have you two lawbreakers done this healing?

Peter Rulers of Israel, we are on trial for helping this man who was sick.
Know that by the name of Jesus Christ
whom you crucified but God raised from the dead
this man stands before you healthy.

Prompter & Echoes Amazing!

Priest These men are uneducated, but they have been with Jesus.

Beggar Look, my brothers, the rulers are debating about what to do with you.

Priest All Jerusalem knows a notable miracle happened through these men.
We cannot deny it, but we can keep it from spreading further. “
Peter and John, you will speak no longer in the name of Jesus.

Peter Is it right in the sight of God to obey you rather than God?
How can we deny what we have seen and heard?

Beggar Let's all obey the Holy One of Israel.

Prompter & Echoes Obey God above all!

Beggar The priests threaten Peter and John,
but they let them go free because of the crowd of people.
Look! They are all glorifying God for what happened.

Peter John and I gather with the disciples who rejoice.
We pray and the room is shaken. The Holy Spirit fills us all,
and we go and boldly spread the word about Jesus.

Prompter & Echoes Share the good news!